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Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



BIRD REPORT for 1990

Compiled by W. F. CURTIS



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Report for 1990 Edited by W. F. Curtis

During the period covered by this report, 293 species were recorded in the county; of these 143 were known to have bred whilst a further four may have done so. Four full species were reported for the first time; Isabelline Wheatear and Red-eyed Vireo, both at Kilnsea; a Bridled Tern at Scarborough and a White-cheeked Starling at Flamborough. This last being also the first record for the British Isles and Europe although murmuring were heard as to the origins of this bird though its breeding range in part overlaps that of other species which occasionally reach our shores. A fifth newcomer to the county was the Red-throated Thrush at Easington. This is the nominate form of the Black-throated Thrush, one of which, by sheer coincidence was also reported in the county at Knaresborough; the third occurrence in four years. These birds may, in the near future, be re-named Dark-throated Thrush, if the British Ornithological Unions' recommendations are accepted, thus lessening confusion a little.

Of the 143 species which bred both Fieldfare and Corncake did so for the first time in several years whilst of the rarer visitors White-tailed Eagle; Red-footed Falcon; American Golden Plover; White-rumped Sandpiper; Baird's Sandpiper; Broad-billed Sandpiper; Ross's Gull; Red-rumped Swallow; Tawny, Olive-backed and Red-throated Pipits; Great Reed, Subalpine, Dusky and Radde's Warblers; Arctic Redpoll; Two-barred Crossbill; Little and Rustic Buntings were all reported; some in association with the vast numbers of thrushes and Goldcrests during mid-October.

During the course of this year, Red-throated Divers were reported along the Holderness coast in slightly larger numbers than for several years, particularly during early March whilst Great Northern Divers were more numerous in November than of late. Grebes had an average year though Black-necked was particularly well represented in Holderness. Shearwaters in general were seen only in average numbers but higher counts of Cory's were noted than for many years. The numbers of Storm Petrels recorded continues to increase, a result of the more prevalent use of tape lures; some interesting results are also occurring in connection with the ringing of these birds. Gannets had a mixed year at Bempton with a slight increase in the numbers of chicks reared against 1989 though there was a slight decrease in the number of breeding pairs. Cormorants roosting in the trees at Hornsea Mere reached record numbers whilst birds of the Continental race of this species

are being recorded with increased frequency each year. The heron family had an average year with only Night Heron being reported in greater than usual numbers. Record counts of moulting Mute Swans were reported from both Hornsea Mere and Fairburn Ings with the flock at the latter location being the largest ever reported in Yorkshire. Bean Geese were quite widespread resulting in an excellent year for this species whilst Pink-footed Geese were recorded in early February from many locations in West Yorkshire including the largest numbers ever from the Doncaster area. A party of 60 White-fronted Geese at Filey in the autumn was one of the largest ever reported in the county while both Grey Lag and Canada Geese continue to expand their range and increase in numbers with record totals for both species being reported. Of the 'feral' geese, both Snow and Barnacle again bred with the free flying flock of the latter originating from Flamingoland still increasing slowly. Egyptian Goose, Mandarin Duck and Red-crested Pochard, of the more exotic waterfowl were recorded from many locations with a single record of Ruddy Shelduck, a species which is occurring more frequently. The 'resident' Ferruginous and Ring-necked Ducks were again present along the Aire valley whilst both American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal put in appearances. Sea ducks, with the exception of a record count of Long-tailed at Flamborough, were unspectacular though male Surf Scoters were seen on three occasions. Red-breasted Merganser continues to maintain its tenuous hold as a breeding species in contrast to Goosander which continues to spread, in particular, along the periphery of the North York Moors. This latter species was another to be reported in record numbers for Yorkshire. Ruddy Duck, as to be expected, continues to spread and increase in numbers, finally breeding in VC 61.

Birds of prey would appear to continue to do well with numbers of breeding Goshawks increasing as did Peregrine and Sparrowhawk. Buzzard bred, albeit unsuccessfully whilst Hobby and Honey Buzzard may well have done so. Quail bred in a 'set aside' area on the edge of the North York Moors with other game birds having a mixed year though releases of Chukars do not assist the cause of the Red-legged Partridge.

Breeding waders generally had only an average year with few definite comments received concerning any change of status. Of the rarer species, several near arctic birds were reported whilst good numbers of some of the more common species; Greenshank, Ruff and Green Sandpiper were noted though Common Sandpiper had a poor year. The spring Whimbrel roost at Wheldrake Ings again held large numbers for a few days and Grey Phalaropes were more numerous than for several years; both Spotted Redshank and Green Sandpiper appear to be increasing as wintering species.

Skuas had a poor year when compared to recent ones as did Sabine's Gull. Ross's Gull was again recorded, this years' bird being seen in mid-summer. Terns, however, were well represented with both Gull-billed and Caspian reported; Roseate were quite widespread whilst the largest spring passage of Black Terns on record occurred. Little had a far better breeding year at Easington rearing 29 young though the small colony at Spurn lost all eggs and young predominately to Fox predation.

Long-eared Owl bred at three locations in VC 61, more than for some years but regrettably Barn Owl appears to still be decreasing in Holderness; an example of the dark-breasted race reported at Spurn was, however, the first occurrence from that location. Grey Wagtail gives the impression of a slight increase in the east of the county whilst Black Redstart again bred in the Sheffield area and may have done so in other large urban areas. Grasshopper Warbler bred in good numbers at Cowden and had its best year at Blacktoft for some time. Whitethroat appears to be slowly increasing particularly in the centre of the county with both Blackcap and Garden Warbler doing well. Pied Flycatcher also shows signs of expanding its range and increasing in numbers. Several species, Bearded Tit in particular, benefited from the recent mild winters thus having a good breeding population, with, generally, a good year. Several of the smaller passerines were present in large numbers especially in Woolley Woods; Magpie was reported in record numbers and still increases though Hooded Crow now seems to be a bird of the past, not being recorded at Flamborough at all, the first blank year since the war. Siskin also set a new record at Spurn whilst Crossbills were widespread following the influx.

The highlight of the year for many observers along the coast was the massive influx of thrushes accompanied by Goldcrests during the third and fourth week of October. Easterly winds together with mist provided classic conditions with birds arriving on several nights to swell the already large numbers grounded resulting in some extremely large counts of the commoner species whilst rarer species were occasionally found amongst this multitude.

Finally the Reports Committee wishes to express its gratitude to local recorders and the very many individuals throughout Yorkshire who have submitted their records to the YNU. As Editor, may I also extend my thanks for the assistance given by the VC Recorders in the compilation of this report.

Bill Curtis July 1992

Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder, Report Editor or direct to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel if the observer so wishes. The system used by the panel for indicating geographic locations is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of 'England North' though should the observer request omission of the county name the panel will respect that wish and use the regional name only.

A full list of species considered by the panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: 102-103. Species that are known to have bred or to have attempted to breed in the county in recent years for which the panel requests data are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe	Hobby
Little Bittern	Quail
Pintail	Corncrake
Garganey	Ruff
Pochard	Black-tailed Godwit
Honey Buzzard	Little Gull
Marsh Harrier	Black Redstart
Montagu's Harrier	Fieldfare
Goshawk	Parrot Crossbill

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor or direct from the RBB Panel, Iredale Place Cottage, Loweswater, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0SU.

Bill Curtis July 1992

Photographs

In recent years the YNU have been unable to include photographs in the *Ornithological Report*. This had been due to, firstly, the vast quantity of information being received, and, secondly, to the limitation of the length of the report owing to financial constraints. As with last year we are able to include photographs entirely due to a kind donation from Birdline Northeast. The Ornithological Committee of the YNU wish to express their gratitude to Birdline Northeast for this very generous contribution.

Birdline Northeast

A bird information service for the North East region which comprises the counties of Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, North, South and West Yorkshire, Humberside and Lincolnshire. The service provides news of all birds of interest occurring in the region including summaries of movements, concentrations and arrivals, as well as presence of rarities and sub-rarities in the area.

For further information contact: John McLoughlin, 5 Franklin Mount, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5EJ. Tel 0423 881630.

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and, unless otherwise specified, found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers. Where applicable, records have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC) unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977) B.O.U. 1977.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Generally a poor first half of the year along the coast excepting a northwards movement in early March; 318 passed Hornsea on 2nd being reflected at Flamborough and Filey the following day with 276 and 114 reported respectively. 145 at Spurn on 11th being the maximum reported from that location though only 37 at Flamborough that same day. Excepting this passage 57 at Flamborough on 3rd February was the peak for the early months. Occasionally recorded during the summer at both Spurn and Flamborough with birds becoming more widespread and almost daily by late August. In September, 79 passed Flamborough on the 16th with 49 on the 22nd and 59 the following day; Spurn reporting a maximum of 49 unspecified divers during this month. Smaller numbers reported during October then up to 30 almost daily at Flamborough during November with higher counts of 53 on 23rd and 49 on 29th. Larger numbers in December with 65 on 9th; 88 on the 14th; 112 on 15th and 70 the following day; counts elsewhere along the coast during this month being small.

Occasionally reported along the Humber at Sunk Island; Skeffling and Saltend, usually lone birds but three at Saltend on 20th September; four east at Sunk Island on 24th November and two at Trent Falls on 1st March.

Single birds were reported from fresh water locations at Hornsea Mere from 3rd February to 18th March; Pugney's C.P. on 6th November; Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd March; flying west over Fairburn Ings on 12th May, this bird also being seen at Swillington Ings the same day, and at Bolton-on-Swale on 6th November.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

One to two birds reported from seven coastal locations during the periods January to May and August to December. Three were reported from Flamborough on 4th March; 25th October and 1st December; at Hornsea on 15th February with four there on 5th November and five at Flamborough on 25th.

One flew west at Sunk Island on 11th November with another there on the 17th (JW). Reported away from the coast at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd November; (BC); the Rother Valley C.P. from 4th to 25th February and Swillington Ings on 9th December.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Reported from seven coastal locations in both winters, to early May and from late September; the bulk of the records coming during November. Most reports were of single birds but two at Spurn on 25th February; four at Flamborough on 3rd November with two on the 5th and 17th; three on the 11th December and two on the 30th. At Hornsea; two on 26th September; six on 5th November and two again on the 27th (GRB); two at Barmston on 3rd November; two again on the 26th and three the following day (PP). Three different birds reported in Filey Bay frequently during November – all three being present on the 12th (PJD:CCT:HJW). Four off Whitby on 10th October.

One flew west along the Humber at Saltend on the 4th November whilst inland the bird at Ripon Racecourse first recorded on 21st December 1989 remained until 13th January. One at Farnham G.P. (same bird?) from 21st January until 3rd March. One at Treeton Dyke on 13th/14th January (RP:MD) and another at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th November (MLD).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Breeding occurred in VC 61 at Drifffield; River Hull (four pairs); Bellmills (one); Pulfin Bog (seven); Filey Dams (one); Scampston Lake (one) and the Lower Derwent valley (probably eight). Outwith the breeding season, the highest counts reported were 21 near Drifffield in early autumn; 16 on the River Hull near Hempholme on 14th January and up to 19 at Pulfin Bog during September.

In VC 62 bred at Brandsby; Coxwold and Brompton and probably bred at Wykeham Pits, Scarborough; the highest counts from this VC being seven at Charm Park.

VC 63 reported 87 pairs breeding on 30 waters; most raised young which totalled about 140. The maxima reported were 32 at Broomhill Ings on 29th July; 25 at Blacktoft on 24th March and 8th July with 22 at Wentworth on 15th January.

This species is equally widespread in VC 64 where 37 pairs reared at least 65 young with high counts of 25 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd September and 22 at Mickletown Ings on 23rd July whilst a further four locations reported up to 15 birds during the autumn.

Bred at Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, with three pairs attempting, two being successful; at Stapleton (two pairs) and one pair each at Scorton Quarry; Pallet Hill; Kirby Fleetham and Nosterfield. 22 at Bolton-on-Swale on 18th January with 21 on 29th August being the highest counts from this VC.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Only seven pairs located as breeding in VC 61; two at Hornsea Mere and Burstwick with one each at Tophill Low Res.; Pulfin Bog and the Lower Derwent valley. Maximum numbers reported from inland waters being 13 at Pulfin Bog during March and 13 at Tophill Low Res. on 27th May. The regular wintering area in Bridlington Bay held 28 on 24th January; 64 on 15th February with 101 the following day decreasing to 65 on 2nd March. 60 present on 4th November.

In VC 62 bred at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough; Dringhouses; Castle Howard (three pairs); Wiganthorpe and Sand Hutton; the largest gathering reported from this VC being 16 at Castle Howard in May.

Well distributed in VC 63 where a total of 58 pairs bred on at least 23 waters with some 80 young being reared. The main breeding location being Winterset Res. with 18 pairs which produced ten broods and 28 young. Maxima for this water were 39 on 11th March; 70 on 4th August and 83 on 23rd September. 30 at Pugney's on 10th November.

At least 42 pairs held territory in VC 64 but success was generally poor owing to low water levels; some 40 young were reared. Large counts were recorded from Eccup Res. during the early months with 35+ during January and February and 46 present from 26th January to 5th February. Spring passage saw 74 at Swillington Ings on 13th April. Post breeding concentrations of 51 at Eccup Res. on 1st August with 31 at Fairburn Ings on 18th July.

Six pairs bred in VC 65; two at Bolton-on-Swale with one each at Catterick; Pallet Hill; Scorton Quarry and Cleasby though only two young were reared; one each at Scorton and Cleasby.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

A better year than 1989 with single birds along the coast at Flamborough; Hornsea; Filey; Barmston and Scarborough occasionally during the early months and three off Flamborough on 17th February. During the latter months two were at Flamborough on 2nd August with one there on 22nd and 29th July; 6th; 10th and 12th August. One at Hornsea on 27th August. Single birds at Port Mulgrave; Filey (on four days) and Flamborough (on four days) during September. No records in October but in November,

two at both Barmston and Flamborough on 4th and again at Flamborough on the 6th. One at Filey from 2nd to 25th; on five occasions at Flamborough; three occasions at Barmston and one each at Grimston; Hornsea and Scarborough. The only records in December were single birds at Flamborough on 8th and 9th and on the latter date at Barmston.

Along the Humber at Sunk Island single birds flew west on the 3rd and 18th February with one east on the 21st October.

Away from the coast; one at Hornsea Mere on 5th August and 4th September whilst further inland, one was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 6th January and in the Idle valley on 5th December.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Recorded during the early months along the coast with one in Scarborough Harbour from 1st to 9th January; one in Filey Bay on 20th and 21st January with one at Flamborough on 3rd February. During the latter months, one north at Spurn on 4th November with one on the Humber there on 3rd December. One at Hornsea on 4th November; Flamborough on 8th and 9th December and Scarborough on the 14th.

Inland; one at Hornsea Mere from 9th to 12th September; 3rd November and 3rd December; at Tophill Low Res. on 18th February; Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 3rd November; Kelk Pits (near Driffild) from 8th to 22nd December. One at Wintersett Res. on 10th/11th September and Nosterfield from 21st to 31st October.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

The only coastal records were one at Holmpton on 8th September (SLJ) and one off Whitby on 10th October (TR).

In VC 61, Hornsea Mere reported two on 21st/22nd May with two again on 2nd June (GRB); four on 15th July; one on 12th August; two on 2nd and 5th September with four on the 7th and 9th (TDC:GRB). One at Tophill Low Res. from 21st to 31st March; one from 16th to 20th May and two from 22nd to 27th with one remaining to 2nd June. One from 15th July to 2nd September with five on 16th July and three for much of August (including juvenile birds). One from 14th to 18th September (obviously an interchange of birds between these two locations). One at Brandesburton on 14th October and 29th December (TI:SLJ).

In VC 63, one at Pugney's C.P. on 5th April with two at Catcliffe Flash on 6th and 8th May; two at Pugney's C.P. on 8th May but these not considered to be the Catcliffe birds. One at Pugney's C.P. from 2nd to 6th June and a juvenile at Worsbrough on 19th/20th September moving to Bretton Park on 21st remaining until the 29th.

One at Fairburn Ings; VC 64; from 24th March to 2nd April (RH); a pair at Knotford Nook on 7th April (PJC:TK) and one at Hay-a-Park on 24th May (RE) whilst a different bird was at Fairburn Ings on this date (RH). An immature at Eccup Res. on 10th August with one at Swillington Ings on 18th September and at Eccup Res. on 8th October.

Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*

No comments were received concerning the breeding status thus it is assumed to be unchanged.

The largest counts, as usual, come from Flamborough with 2450 on 28th January; 4750 on 21st April and 2500 the following day. Counts were then below 2000 until 6th August when 6000 were recorded with 3100 on the 7th; 4250 on 8th September; 2488 on the 9th and 2244 on the 16th. Several large movements were reported during December with 1350 on 1st; 1020 on the 15th; 3700 on the 19th and 1200 on 21st.

Blue phase birds were reported on 43 days at Flamborough and occasionally elsewhere but three off Hornsea on 15th February. One summered on the cliffs at Flamborough but not thought to have bred.

Regularly along the Humber at Sunk Island, usually one to four birds being reported but 15 on 21st April and 12 on 10th June. Further upstream, two flew west along the Ouse at Blacktoft on 20th April whilst one was seen flying north at Carlton Marsh on 14th July

and another there on 22nd November. One at Boltby (near Thirsk) on 12th April; one near Wheldrake Ings on 8th December with one at Otley G.P. on 12th/13th September.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

A good year with, at Flamborough, two on 4th August (BR); one on the 5th (MN:PJW) and the 10th (PAL); two on the 16th (PAL); one on 18th (BR); then one on the 15th September (JCL); 21st (PAL); 25th (JMc:BR) and 27th (PAL). One on 8th October (PAL:SR) and 5th November (JMc). One at Filey on 6th October (REH:IR:DJS); one at Holmpton on 6th August (SLJ); one at Spurn on 17th September; two at Hornsea on 23rd July and 17th August (GRB) with one at Staithes on 8th September (MA:IB).

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

Two off Flamborough on 23rd September (MN:PJW:PAL:JCL) with one there on 27th November (PAL) and 21st December (PMH:DB). One at Filey on 6th August (PJD:JS:CCT) and one off Barmston on 15th August (PP).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

A disappointing year. The first of the year passing Flamborough on 3rd July with one or two on a further six days of that month. August was also quiet with birds at Flamborough on only half the days during the month; maxima being 43 on the 6th and 32 on the 7th. No other location reporting more than nine birds in any one day. Larger counts during September with 67 at Flamborough on the 7th when 26 flew north at Scarborough; the following day saw the peak movement of the year when 132 passed Flamborough; 23 at Spurn and ten at Filey. 111 at Flamborough on the 9th with, on the 15th, 121 there, 54 at Spurn and 15 off Scarborough. 21 at Spurn the following day with 104 at Flamborough then smaller numbers, though 41 at Flamborough on the 20th when 24 were reported from Long Nab. The last notable movement of the year came on the 25th with 11 at Spurn; ten at Hornsea; 114 at Flamborough and 86 off Long Nab. Very few in October excepting 24 north off Scarborough on the 18th. Occasionally recorded during November, usually one or two birds but four from Hornsea on 5th and three at Spurn the same day. Late birds reported from Hornsea on 26th November and Spurn on 13th December.

One flew east along the Humber at Sunk Island on 22nd September.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Small numbers reported on nine days during April at Flamborough with 21 on the 21st; slightly more during May with 56 on the 25th. Scarce in June though 267 on the 10th when 72 were recorded at Spurn whilst the previous day 47 flew south there and 149 were counted off Filey. Almost daily at Flamborough during July with 225 on 7th; 230 on the 10th and 250 on 21st. 78 north at Hornsea on the 10th. In August; 257 at Flamborough on the 6th with 470 on the 7th and 284 on 8th. 58 south at Grimston on the 11th. Smaller numbers during September though 54 flew north at Scarborough on the 7th; 390 at Flamborough on the 8th with 33 at Spurn; 100 at Flamborough on 16th; 43 at Spurn on 19th with 147 off Flamborough on the 20th when 49 passed north at Long Nab. 116 north off Scarborough on 25th. Few in October with 11 north at Hornsea on the 7th when 25 were off Flamborough with 23 there the following day and 16 north off Scarborough on the 18th. The last were reported on the 10th December with two south off Filey and one at Flamborough.

Along the Humber at Sunk Island, one east on 9th June and two west (one later returning east) on 22nd September. Inland, one was seen flying around Thrybergh Tip during the early hours of 7th September. One found uninjured at Laytham on 8th October was released at Spurn the following day.

Birds of the western Mediterranean race *P.p. mauretanicus* were reported from Flamborough in July with two on the 28th and one on the 3rd and 15th; in August, on 4th; 12th and 27th; in September; three on the 8th; one on 9th; two on 14th; five on 16th; two on 20th and one on the 22nd. One on 17th October and one on the 3rd November.

A bird which flew north at Flamborough on 29th September was considered by the observers to be of the race *P.p. yelkuan* (PAL:JCL).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

The upsurge in tapelures has brought about new information concerning the distribution of this species in the North Sea. Flamborough reported ten birds of which six were trapped; two being previously ringed the same month, one at Tynemouth and one at the Isle of May. Four on 7th August being the best night. 34 were trapped at Filey Brigg with 14 on the 28th July. Of these, five were previously ringed; four in the North Sea; the fifth being ringed at Copeland in July 1989, being retrapped at Ailsa Craig on 16th July 1990 before being trapped at Filey on 9th August.

Birds reported otherwise were two in Filey Bay on 26th November; one at Spurn on 15th September; one at Scarborough on 12th August and one picked up exhausted at Whitby on 10th November.

An unidentified petrel flew north at Spurn on 25th September.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Recorded in September from Flamborough with three on the 9th; two on 15th when 14 were also reported moving north at Spurn. Two at Flamborough on 16th with one at Spurn. One at Spurn on 25th with three on 16th October.

Gannet *Sula bassana*

An estimated 1036 pairs bred at Bempton producing 720 chicks, slightly less pairs than in 1989 though apparently a better reproduction rate. Largest counts as usual were from Flamborough with 751 on 25th February; 901 on 21st April with 1550 the following day; 1465 on 12th May; no particularly large movements in June or July then 1170 on 7th August; 1440 on 1st September; 3780 on 8th; 6198 on 9th after which no counts of over 1000 were reported. A similar pattern was reflected at other coastal watch points involving smaller numbers, however, Filey reported 600 per hour north on 21st April and 732 per hour north on 22nd September though both counts were only for one hour.

Birds were frequently seen along the Humber at both Sunk Island and Saltend usually one to five being involved but eight at Saltend on 29th August; eight at Sunk Island on 8th September with eight again on the 15th and 11 on 22nd.

Inland, one at Kirk Sandall in early January was taken to Bawtry RSPB: one over Royd Moor Res. on 19th September when one was also seen over Hay-a-Park; one at Barden Moor on 13th October and one over Thorne Moors on 20th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Bred to the north of Filey Brigg with 18 occupied nests in mid June; no other breeding records being received.

The highest counts came from Flamborough southwards with, at that location, maxima of 113 on 8th September; 98 on 9th; 229 on the 16th; 137 on 22nd and 123 on the 23rd. 92 were reported on 1st October; 64 on the 6th, thereafter, decreasing with low counts during November and December excepting 53 on 14th December.

Local movement along the Holderness coast produced occasional large numbers with 197 at Barmston on 2nd March; 110 at Hornsea on 15th February – most birds commuting to Hornsea Mere where the tree roost held a maximum during the early months of 15th February and even higher counts during the latter months of 148 on 16th October; 159 on 14th November; 172 on 18th November and 161 on 17th December (these being the highest counts ever reported from this roost).

Frequently reported in small numbers along the Humber at Sunk Island and Saltend with 18 at the former on 13th August as maximum. Up to nine frequently along the River Hull near Driffild; maximum of 19 at Pulfin Bog on 10th November and 1st December with between 12 and 31 at Tophill Low Res. during both winters. A colour ringed bird at this last location in spring originated from the tree colony on the Oostvaardersplassen being ringed there as a nestling in June 1989 – the second record at Tophill Low Res. of a bird from this colony.

At Blacktoft, on the confluence of the Trent and Ouse, in VC 63, birds were reported in all months with ten to 14 during the winter and a maximum of 31 on 11th August. Quite

widespread throughout this VC in small numbers with obvious passage from mid-March to mid-May and again from late August to mid-September. Maxima in spring being six to the northwest over Sheffield on 30th March and, in autumn, eight over Wath Ings on 27th August; nine over Winterset Res. on 30th August and ten over Thrybergh on 5th September.

In VC 64 reported in every month from Fairburn Ings and Swillington Ings with a total of 26 in this area on 17th March including 19 flying over to the northwest. Quite widespread at other locations in all months excepting July with maxima of 11 over Keighley on 13th April and eight at Farnham G.P. in February.

Reported in VC 65 at Bolton-on-Swale during every month with up to 37 during the winter.

Continental birds of the race *P.c. sinensis* were reported from many locations with four at Flamborough on 11th March and three there on the 24th; six at Barmston on 23rd March; three at Hornsea Mere on 27th February with three also on 27th March; three at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd March and four there on 15th April. In addition one to two birds were reported from Sunk Island; Humber Wildfowl Refuge; Bretton Park; Winterset Res.; Leeshaw Res.; Blacktoft; Bolton-on-Swale; Swillington Ings and the Lower Derwent valley.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

About 16 pairs bred at Bampton; the same number as in 1989; no comments being received from other areas of Flamborough Head. Good numbers at Flamborough throughout January and February with, during the former; 770 on 6th/7th; 994 on the 21st and 943 on 27th whilst c700 were present during most of the latter month. Scarce there in March with 155 on the 11th as the maximum with 70 on 22nd April as the peak for that month, thereafter, scarce until mid-August then increasing to 138 on the 29th; 260 present on 16th September but numbers low in October but increasing with the arrival of wintering birds though the maxima were low with 287 on 24th November and up to 270 during December. Conversely Filey reported larger counts than usual during the latter months with 130 on 27th September; 136 on 25th November and 122 on 1st December as monthly maxima. Frequent in Bridlington Bay with maximum of 56 at Barmston on 9th November whilst a few miles further south 50 passed Hornsea on 5th November. Six were reported on the Humber at Saltend on 5th November.

Reported regularly in VC 62 from the Scarborough area with 30 on 26th September and 35 on 4th November.

One at Strines Res.; VC 63; from 21st to 23rd September which was reported from Agden Res. on 24th/25th. Two adults at Gouthwaite Res. (VC 64) on 22nd December whilst in VC 65, an immature at Bolton-on-Swale constituted the first record for that location.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

One present at Hornsea Mere throughout January; February; March and December with two reported on 22nd November. One at Pugney's C.P. from 8th January to 21st March and from 25th October to the end of the year. One at Blacktoft from 29th October to 11th November; one at Fairburn Ings on 28th November; 14th/15th and 19th December.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Single in Hull on 10th May (KR) – not accepted by BBRC. One, a second year bird, at Denaby Ings from 15th June to 5th August (TF:KAD). One at Hilla Green, Hackness, on 24th May (GMB:CJS:JG). An adult roosted at Otley G.P. from 16th July to at least 11th August (TM:SL:AGG:SPS) – this has yet to be submitted to BBRC.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One flew south over Scarborough on 9th May (PJD).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

In VC 61, bred at Scampston Lake, where 22 nests were reported, and the Lower Derwent Valley (no count). In VC 62, eight nests in Sleightholmedale. 26 pairs reared 70 young at Bretton Park, VC 63, whilst three to four nests were located near Sheffield. In VC 64, 20+ nests reported at Dob Park and 16+ at Askwith with young being seen in nests at Bishop Monkton and Healaugh. 14 nests at Kirby Fleetham, in VC 65.

Away from these breeding locations, in VC 61, few birds were seen; usually one to five at Tophill Low Res. and Pulfen Bog but six at Spurn on 17th June and 11 over the sea at Filey on 28th August. Early autumn maxima in VC 63 were 29 at Broomhill Ings; 25 at Denaby Ings; 23 at Sprotbrough Flash and 20 at Thorpe Marsh. In VC 64; 33 at Lindley Wood Res. on 24th September; 27 at Fairburn Ings on 25th August; 25 at Swillington Ings on 1st September with 24 there on 25th February. 17 at Bolton-on-Swale on 12th August was the highest count in VC 65.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

A second year bird at Potteric Carr on 23rd October (AJS:SB).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

One seen at the south side of Scarborough on 13th April (PC) was doubtless the same bird seen on the 22nd near the North Cliff Golf Course (BL).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

One east at Sunk Island on 14th April (SM:JW); one southeast at Kilnsea on 17th May (TC); one at Blacktoft on 20th May with what may have been the same bird in the Lower Derwent Valley on 20th and 21st May (TED). One at Flamborough on 26th May (MN) and finally one at Blacktoft on 23rd July.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Bred in VC 61 along the Lower Derwent valley with seven pairs; Hornsea Mere, four pairs and one each at Tophill Low Res.; Pulfen Bog and Scampston Lake. This was the first breeding record at this last location for at least 30 years. The moulting flock at Hornsea Mere increased from 143 on 20th June to 160 by 8th July; 196 on 15th peaking at 201 (highest count for this location), on the 20th before declining to 149 on the 18th August then 135 by the 25th. 146 were present on 25th November with 155 on the 27th.

In VC 62, bred at Peasholme Park, Scarborough with attempted breeding at Stearsby and Hackness whilst six pairs were present at Pond Head during the breeding season though the outcome is unknown.

12 pairs bred in VC 63, ten of which reared 35 young. Maxima in this VC during the winter being 51 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 21st November and 35 at both Pugney's C.P. on 21st November and the Idle Valley during January.

28 pairs bred in VC 64 of which 16 were successful in rearing 54 young. At Fairburn Ings 14 pairs bred; seven of them hatching, 34 of which 20 were reared. At this location monthly maxima, with the exception of November and December, were over 100. 200 were present from 9th June increasing to peak at 337 on 22nd July (the highest count ever in Yorkshire) decreasing then to 272 on 3rd August. No other location having more than the 34 birds reported from Swillington Ings in January.

Bred in VC 65 at Bolton-on-Swale; Scorton Quarry; Catterick Ponds and Pallet Hill though the nests at the latter two were destroyed by vandals.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Another disappointing year along the Lower Derwent valley with up to 50 during January; 19 in February and 18 on 4th March as the last of the early winter. The first returning bird, an adult, was seen on 27th October thereafter up to six were present until the year's end. Elsewhere in VC 61, the party of nine in the vicinity of Tophill Low Res. reported in 1989 remained into mid January being joined by a tenth bird on 20th remaining until the 27th then four to 11th February; three on the 16th and eight on the 2nd/3rd

March. Six at nearby Hempholme on 4th March. An influx noted on 21st October with six and ten over Filey; seven at Flamborough and four at Tophill Low Res. Seven at Flamborough on the 24th with two at Hornsea Mere; five at Spurn on the 25th. Up to 11 birds in the Tophill Low Res. area from the fourth week of October into early November; 11 at Hornsea Mere on 14th November with ten on the 24th.

Present at both ends of the year in the Idle valley with 45 during early January peaking at 57 on the 28th then 31 on 7th February; 18 on 18th; 27 on the 25th and 13, being the last, on 16th March. Elsewhere, seven at Beal in January and four in the Rother Valley C.P. on 6th February. Single at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 17th October with up to three at three other locations on the 19th and 20th; 20 over Winterset Res. on 21st with eight the following day. Two in the Idle Valley on 11th December with 33 on the 27th and 43 on the 29th.

The four birds at Fairburn Ings reported in December 1989 remained until 12th January with a further four on 21st January, two remaining until 22nd March. The first returning birds were one at Fairburn Ings and three at Staveley on 23rd October, the Staveley birds remaining until 6th November. Nine at Fairburn Ings on 5th November with ten on the 10th and four at nearby Swillington Ings on this latter date.

Maxima a Kirby Fleetham, VC 65, were 16 on 15th January and 12 on 27th October. Six at Nosterfield from 21st to 23rd October whilst between 20th October and 14th November some 50 birds passed through Bolton-on-Swale.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus gygnus*

The Lower Derwent valley held up to 50 during January with 47 in February and 46 in March; the last reported being 14 on the 31st; 25 recorded flying north over Brandsby on the 28th. The first returning birds were seen on the Derwent on 24th October with up to ten then in November and 20 in December. Small numbers elsewhere in VC 61 with ten over Filey on 20th October; 16 at Hornsea Mere on 29th November; seven there on the 3rd and six at Tophill Low Res. on the 1st.

22 were in the Idle Valley on 8th March with ten on 24th being the last. At Beal 54 were present during late January and c50 present until 16th February. 23 at Broomhill Ings on 12th January with 33 on 11th February. During the latter months, 27 passed west at Blacktoft on 17th October with a further 41 west between 4th November and 16th December. 40 at Beal on 22nd November; 21 at Thorpe Marsh on 4th November; 16 east over Potteric Carr on 22nd October; 15 at Langsett Res. on 20th October and 14 at Broomhill Ings from 15th December to the end of the year.

During the early months reported from 16 locations in VC 64, usually in small numbers but 14 at Swillington and, at Fairburn, 65 on 13th January with 71 in early February through to 12th March decreasing to five by the 30th and the last on 22nd May. A similar situation during the latter months with the first at Fairburn Ings on 9th October increasing to 32 by the 22nd and 37 by 17th November remaining at that number until 5th December when 48 were recorded with 73 on the 7th and 81 on the 16th.

The flock at Bolton-on-Swale/Great Langton, in VC 65, had monthly maxima of 28 in January; 31 in February; 27 in March; 23 in November and 25 in December.

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

The bird at Tophill Low Res. reported in 1989 remained there until 14th January; four flew northwest there on 15th April. Two on the Lower Derwent on 4th March and then up to four regularly during the rest of the month; up to nine during April but declining to one by the end of that month. One on 10th May with two on the 13th. Two high in off the sea at Spurn on 13th January continued south over the Humber. Three birds present at Stapleton; VC 65, on 27th January with two the following day and one on 3rd February.

During the latter months of the year, two at Barmston on 1st and 2nd December with two again there on the 30th and 31st. Eight at Cowden on 27th December with one at Hornsea Mere on 28th. One at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd December was reported from Great Langton on the 6th whilst one was at Wath on 7th and 8th.

A small individual at Tophill Low Res. from 2nd to 28th December was considered to belong to the race *A.f. rossicus* (RL).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Few reports of any numbers in VCs 61 and 62 during the early months; c170 over Spurn in two skeins on 20th January with 110 to the west there on 8th March when 220 flew north over Filey.

In VC 63, 52 took up residence near Ingbirchworth remaining until 10th February; the size of the flock varying and peaking at 121 on the 9th. Several skeins were reported in January; the most noticeable being 333 over Barnsley on the 13th and 500 over Thrybergh on the 12th. There was much movement in this VC on 9th and 10th February and obviously some skeins were reported from several different locations. On the 9th; 162 west over Halifax, 115 northwest over Wilsic; on the 10th, 210 southeast over Sheffield, eight skeins totalling between 750 and 850 birds over the Rother Valley C.P.; 250 north over Rivelin Res.; 500 northwest over Millhouses; 375 north at Blacktoft; 155 west at Halifax; 220 west at Ingbirchworth; 254 north at Winterset Res.; 150 northwest at Rockley and 100 north at High Green. On the 13th, 2220 flew west over Thrybergh Res. being the largest skein ever reported in the Doncaster area. 260 over Wroot on the 22nd when 180 were seen over Castleford. On the 23rd, 700 northwest over Winterset; 520 north at Edderthorpe and 400 west at Scawthorpe. Few in March, but on the 7th, 160 over Hoyland; 250 over Worsbrough and 200–300 over Wood Green.

This passage of early February was not noted in VC 64 though 275 flew northwest over Fairburn Ings on 6th and 288 west over Knotford Nook on the 22nd when 355 passed west over Fairburn Ings.

The only large party during the early months in VC 65 was 250 on the 7th February seen both over Bolton-on-Swale and Leyburn.

Smaller numbers during the latter months of the year with 202 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 14th October after which few were reported from there. 143 over Flamborough on 29th October whilst 93 flew east at Sunk Island on 29th December. In VC 63; 300 over Burbage Moor on 4th with 150 north on 23rd December and 150 southeast on 24th at Thrybergh C.P. 200 over Harrogate on 31st October.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

The 60 which flew south at Filey on 15th November constitutes one of the largest parties ever seen in Yorkshire. Six at Spurn on 6th January with five at Hornsea Mere on 11th February; one south at Holmpton on 21st May and four at Flamborough on 30th June. Two along the Lower Derwent Valley on 4th March; one on 18th April and four on 29th October; 1st November and 14th December. Seven at Barmston on 24th and 25th November decreasing to three on 26th. One at Tophill Low Res. from 15th to 25th November then three or four to 1st December after which five were present to the 29th.

One in the Rother Valley C.P. from 18th to 21st January was no doubt the bird seen across the border into Derbyshire until late May. Two at Fairburn Ings from 18th January to 28th March; 11 at Cleasby, in VC 65, on 7th January.

A bird of the Greenland race *A.a. flavirostris* was reported from Great Langton, VC 65, from 2nd December to the 30th with two on the 31st.

Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*

Still increasing as a breeding bird; consolidating in the east and spreading in the north and west.

Large gatherings were again reported from Hornsea Mere with on 16th January 446; 465 on 11th February; 822 on 14th June and 860 on 10th October. Maxima at other locations in VC 61 being 96 at Scampston on 14th January; 90+ near Driffield during the latter months; 200 at Burnby during both winters; 440 at Tophill Low Res. on 30th September and 550 on the Lower Derwent Valley in December.

In VC 62; 48 at Hutton Rudby in February; 464 at Castle Howard on 7th December. In VC 63, 100 at Blaxton G.P. on 7th January; 85 at Blacktoft on 10th August and 60 at

Potteric Carr at the end of October. Maxima in VC 64 being 233 at Farnham in January; 160 at Hay-a-Park in September; 320 at Staveley in September; 174 near High Batts N.R. on 24th December and 160+ at Otley G.P. on 13th January; 120 south over Leeds on 11th November and 140 northwest over Folly Hall on 22nd February.

A large increase in VC 65 with maxima at Bolton-on-Swale of 583 on 2nd December; 207 at Stapleton on 2nd January and 360 at Nosterfield on 5th October.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

Frequently reported from the Harrogate area where birds were seen at six locations with maxima of ten at Staveley and Hay-a-Park in October. Three adults and two juveniles at Grimwith Res. on 16th June.

Single birds at Swillington Park on 2nd May; Swillington Ings/Leventhorpe Hall Pond from 5th to 7th October and Harewood Park on 11th November. In VC 63, at Wentworth on 6th March; Pugney's C.P. on 5th June and Blacktoft on 1st September whilst in VC 61 one near Lowthorpe for a few days from 6th April and at Stone Creek on 27th January.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

The only reported breeding in VC 61 was reported from Hornsea Mere (12 pairs) and the Lower Derwent Valley (c20 pairs). Widespread in this VC and, despite lack of records from many locations, considered to be still increasing. The largest gatherings reported were 160 at Primrose Valley on 18th November; 198 at Hornsea Mere in June; 70 at Settrington on 18th November and 700 in the Lower Derwent Valley in December.

In VC 62 single pairs were reported breeding at Crockey Hill; York Foss and Stearsby. The only large counts from this VC being 282 at Castle Howard on 27th January and 78 at Seamer on 28th September.

Bred at 25 locations in VC 63, at least three of which were new. Maxima reported being 320 at Bretton Park on 15th October; 510 at Pugney's C.P. on 6th October and 360 in the Rother Valley C.P. during September.

Considered to be no change in status in VC 64 being very common throughout much of the lowland areas with maxima at Farnham of 800 in September; 636 at Fairburn on 16th June and 526 there on 1st February. Eccup Res. had 1000+ on 24th August (the highest count ever in Yorkshire) with 800 on 18th September. 150 to 350 at many other locations. Numbers in the uplands appear stable or very slightly increased with 205 at Gouthwaite Res. in August and 103 at Upper Barden Res. in June.

Little change in VC 65 with 730 in August at Nosterfield; 264 at Thornton Steward in December and 242 at Leighton Res. on 21st January.

A bird present in the Lower Derwent Valley from 27th October to 16th November was of one of the small races possibly *B.c. minima*. A small dark individual, possibly of the race *B.c. occidentalis* was present at Winterset Res. from 11th to 16th November and again on 29th December. What was probably the same bird was reported from Pugney's C.P. on 23rd and 24th December.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Again bred at Bretton Park where one pair reared two young. Seven or eight birds present here during the early months with seven during the latter months. One or two birds at ten locations in the near vicinity had no doubt originated from that small flock.

Up to 122 at Hornsea Mere during the early months with up to 134 at the year's end (this flock considered to originate from Flamingoland, near Pickering); 132 at Castle Howard on 19th September were no doubt the same birds. Occasionally reported during the early months with 19 in the Lower Derwent valley on 24th February and 20 the following day. Five at Thornton Steward during January and February.

Small numbers reported during October, particularly during the early part of the month, may well have been wild birds. Two at Tophill Low Res. on 5th; eight at Scorton on the 6th with two west at Tophill Low Res. on the 7th when 11 flew north at Barmston and four south at Hornsea with two west at Sunk Island. On the 8th, nine flew west at Saltend and

25 west over Blacktoft. Six at Scorton on 27th October were reported later that same day over Nosterfield.

One to two birds occasionally at six locations in the Harrogate area with a similar situation in the Leeds area.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Recorded daily on the Humber at Spurn until 28th April. Mainly small numbers present during January but between 100 and 150 on five days. More in February, often over 100 with 174 on 18th then mostly over 100 in March to the 17th dropping to 36 by the end of the month and similar counts to the 24th April; four on 25th/26th and seven on the 27th/28th. The first returning birds here were five offshore on 12th September then varying numbers to the end of that month. 67 counted on 1st October then small numbers to the period 11th to 15th when up to 152 were present dropping to less than 50 during the next week but over 100 then to the end of that month. Very variable counts in November, from between one and 169 and then, in December, low counts but 60 to 72 from 7th to 9th. On this last date only one young bird was present out of a total of 66. Birds from this flock occasionally reported from along the Humber as far up as Sunk Island.

Coastal passage noted mainly in October with 45 at Flamborough on 13th; 45 at Scarborough on the 18th; 51 at Flamborough on the 21st when 58 passed Hornsea; 84 at Filey and 24 west along the Humber at Sunk Island.

Inland, in VC 63, single birds were reported from Pugney's C.P. on 2nd January; 18th to 25th November and at Winterset Res. on the 17th. Two at Blacktoft on 15th July and 21st October with one there on 31st October and 18th November. None in VC 64 but a good year for this species in VC 65 with four at Bolton-on-Swale on 2nd January, three being present to the 6th. Single birds at Stapleton on 13th January; at Wensley on 23rd January with two the following day; Cleasby from 7th to 28th April and Nosterfield on 8th November. Pale-bellied birds *B.b. hrota* were reported from Flamborough with three on 8th October and nine on the 3rd November. One occasionally at Spurn with two on the 29th December and three on 6th March.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

One at Acaster South Ings on 5th and 7th February; one at Brighthouse from 25th February to 22nd April being reported also from Blackmoorfoot Res. on 14th April. What was possibly this bird was at Ringstone Edge Res. on 11th August. One on the Lower Derwent valley on 12th May; at Westwood (VC 65) on 25th May and High Batts N.R. on 30th September and 24th December. One at Nosterfield from 15th May to 25th October with two on 3rd June.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A single bird reported from Flamborough on 13th May (DGH:JCL:PAL:MN:PJW).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Again no breeding records from the Humber but 12 pairs at Blacktoft. In VC 61, two pairs at Pulfen Bog/High Eske; four pairs at Tophill Low Res. and about 20 pairs along the Lower Derwent valley. In VC 63, bred at Blaxton G.P. with three to six pairs; Denaby Ings, one pair; Thorpe Marsh; Candy Farm; Burghy Banks and Potteric Carrs but no details of the last four. In VC 64, bred at Masham G.P. with one pair; Swillington Ings, at least two pairs and one pair at Fairburn Ings whilst in VC 65 three pairs bred at Nosterfield with one at Pallet Hill.

Counts along the Humber during the latter months between Blacktoft and Spurn gave 5387 on 23rd September (3200 on the Wildfowl Refuge and 1291 at Skeffling); 3060 on the 14th October (1750 on the Refuge); 2462 on 11th November (1100 on the Refuge) and

1262 on the 9th December (690 on the Refuge). Very high counts were reported from Sunk Island in early autumn with 2058 on 10th August; 3206 the following day then 2614 on the 18th decreasing to 914 by the 27th and 736 on 1st September. Numbers over the Humber at Spurn were small with maxima of 125 on 10th March; 138 on 3rd October; 124 on the 27th and 115 on the 30th.

Easterly movement was noted at Spurn in July with some 831 birds reported; 417 being on the 7th. At Blacktoft this same easterly movement was recorded with 48 on the 16th when 98, in four parties flew east over Fairburn Ings. Return westerly movement was reported with 24 at Fairburn Ings on 24th August; 80 at Blacktoft on 30th August; 29 on 2nd September; 27 on 14th and then 62 on 21st October.

Inland, in VC 63, 11 at Wombwell on 29th January; a total of 30 at Winterset Res. on 3rd February; 16 at Blaxton on 7th May; 15 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 31st August with 11 the following day then on 14th September, 16 at Redmires Res.; 18 north over Pontefract and 62 at Winterset Res. On this same date, in VC 64, 16 arrived at Gouthwaite Res. remaining until the 30th and 23 at Swillington Ings. 17 present at Nosterfield, in VC 65, during most of January and February.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Two males at Fairburn Ings on 4th May; two males on the River Ouse at Poppleton the following day. Male on the canal at Gotts Park, Leeds on 13th April with a male at Rossington Hall on 17th May; one at Sprotbrough Flash from 3rd to 5th June whilst a male and female were at Potteric Carr on 27th October and four other occasions to 9th December. Male and female at Esholt on 30th November.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

One pair bred at Birkdale Tarn. Possibly bred at Summerlodge Tarn where two pairs were present, and along the Lower Derwent valley where five males and four females were present. Birds also summered at Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings; four juveniles being seen at the latter location on 9th July although they were thought not to have been reared there.

The Lower Derwent valley recorded monthly maxima of 3000 in January; 5000 in February, thereafter, decreasing through March to 200 by 17th April and 50 by the 29th. During the latter months up to 14 were present in September; 450 in October; 520 in November and 4000 by the end of the year. Also during these latter months, 2300 were present on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 14th October with 1750 on 11th November and 1750 on 9th December. Other notable counts were 860 at Bolton-on-Swale on 28th January increasing to 1050 on 18th February then down to 720 on 4th March. 1035 present there on 28th December. Up to 500 at Tophill Low Res. in January and November with a peak of 1300 in December. Hornsea Mere had maxima of 399 on 11th February with 950 on 6th October.

In VC 63 several locations frequently reported over 100; of these Blacktoft held 450 on 7th February and 600 on 11th December; 190 at the Rother Valley C.P. in February; 235 at Broomhill Ings on 15th December; 292 at Winterset Res. on 18th December and 129 at Pugney's C.P. on 25th November.

Both Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings, in VC 64, consistently held over 100 with at the former, 290 on 14th January; 218 on 24th February; 200 on both 13th March and 30th October with 294 on 11th November and 369 on 7th December; the latter location had lower numbers peaking at 232 on 16th December. Between 150 and 200 were near Hellfield on 7th January.

Apart from Bolton-on-Swale, the only locations in VC 65 to hold more than 100 were Thornton Steward with 304 on 20th January and Leyburn with 118 on 3rd March.

Only light coastal passage noted with maxima reported being 300 south at Spurn on 3rd October and 137 on 23rd November. At Flamborough, 179 on 8th September; 140 on 14th October; 134 on the 21st with 125 on 23rd November. This coastal passage was reflected

along the Humber at Sunk Island where 154 moved west on 7th October; 514 west on 21st; 105 west on 4th November and 112 west on 1st December.

Addition to the 1989 Report: 11 pairs bred at Grimwith Res. rearing 48 young.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

A male in eclipse was present at Wath main marsh on 6th September (JMT *et al*).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Breeding occurred as follows; in VC 61, at Tophill Low Res. with two pairs; along the Lower Derwent valley with probably ten pairs; Scampston Lake, two pairs and Hotham Hall. In VC 63 at Potteric Carr, five pairs and Blacktoft with one pair. Fairburn Ings held the only breeding birds in VC 64 with six successful pairs hatching 63 young though only 12 fledged.

The maxima at the main strongholds were 85 at Hornsea Mere on 16th January with 221 on 18th November; Swillington Ings with 119 on 13th January, 94 on 23rd January and 77 on 6th October; at Fairburn Ings, 77 on 17th February, 146 on 29th September and 175 on 7th October though less than 55 during November/December. Other waters occasionally holding good numbers were Potteric Carr with 65 on 15th September and 40 from the 27th to 29th; 55 on the Lower Derwent on 25th February and 60 on 6th March; Tophill Low Res. with up to 50 in January and Mickletown Ings where 44 were recorded on 31st October.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Bred in VC 61 at Tophill Low Res. where one pair was reported with eight young; suspected of breeding at Pulfen Bog where one pair was present during the summer and along the Lower Derwent where four pairs were present. In VC 63 breeding was reported from 20 locations of which half were lowland sites whilst in VC 64 breeding was only proven at Gouthwaite Res., with five broods, and on Barden Moor, with one pair.

Monthly maxima along the Lower Derwent Valley were considered rather low with 1500 in January; 3500 in February decreasing quickly to 236 in March with 300 in April. Autumn numbers reached 400 in August and September with 430 in October; 200 in November and 1500 in December. Hornsea Mere held 362 on 16th January with 720 on 7th September whilst at Tophill Low Res. monthly maxima were 523 in January; 250 in February and 138 in March. Numbers here during the latter months were 865 in September; 700 in October; 445 in November with 500 in December. Counts during the latter months at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were 275 on 23rd September; 600 on 14th October; c1000 on 11th November and 250 on 9th December. 200 at Burstwick G.P. on 14th January.

Light coastal passage noted, the maximum being at Spurn with 350 on 3rd October. Westerly passage was recorded along the Humber at Sunk Island with 213 on 7th January whilst during the latter months 243 were counted on 2nd September (a large influx noted at Tophill Low Res. on this date); 184 on 14th October with 259 on the 21st.

In VC 63, six locations reported over 100 during the early months with, in January, 275 at Broomhill Ings on the 5th, 300 at Potteric Carr on the same day and 240 at Blacktoft on the 24th. During the latter months 12 locations held 100 or more with Blacktoft having 840 on 24th October; 320 on 10th November and up to 270 in December. 393 at Broomhill Ings on 23rd September, 365 in October with 295 on 9th December. 376 at Pugney's C.P. on the 22nd December whilst 750 were at Potteric Carr during the last week of the year.

Maxima reported from VC 64 were 670 in November at Gouthwaite Res. with 500 there during the period September to December. Fairburn Ings held 300 in January with 205 on 25th August (unusually high) and 549 on 16th December. 398 on 29th January at Swillington Ings.

The only location in VC 65 to hold more than 100 birds was Bolton-on-Swale with maxima of 222 on 7th October and 378 on 28th December.

Addition to the 1989 Report: Nine breeding pairs located at Grimwith Res.

Males of the North American race *A.c. carolinensis* were present at Fairburn Ings from 30th March to 8th May (JL *et al*) and at Blacktoft Sands from 2nd to 10th July (AG *et al*). Both records being under consideration by BBRC.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

No change in breeding status reported. Very widespread, in large numbers, during both winter periods with the following locations reporting at least 1000 birds. Humber Wildfowl Refuge with 1270 on 9th December; the Lower Derwent valley with 1500 in January; 2000 in February and March; Tophill Low Res., 1440 in September, 1000 in October, 1855 in November and 2450 in December. In VC 63, 1050 at Blacktoft on 2nd September and 1000 at Cridling Stubbs on 13th October. Fairburn Ings was the only location in VC 64 to hold numbers of this size with 1500 on 24th August and 1000 from mid to late December whilst in VC 65, Bolton-on-Swale had 1025 on 7th August with 1110 at Leighton Res. on 20th January.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

A pair prospected at Blacktoft and may have bred; the birds being present from April into summer.

300 reported from the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 14th October whilst in the Lower Derwent Valley up to 12 were reported in January with 74 in February; 166 in March with 20 in April. Few during the latter months of the year with up to 17 in December. Maxima at Hornsea Mere were 16 on 13th September; 26 on 26th September and 32 on 27th October. 14 at Pulfin Bog on 6th October. Light coastal passage noted with 15 at Spurn on 20th September; 32 there on 3rd October with 14 off Hornsea on the 4th. 12 off Flamborough on the 13th and 30 at Spurn on the 22nd. Along the estuary at Sunk Island small numbers were reported during the latter months but 31 flew west on 13th October whilst the previous day saw 47 west at Blacktoft.

Inland, in VC 63, 23 flew west at Redmires Res. on 28th August; 20 at Blackmoorfoot Res. 6th September with 13 at Broomhill on 17th and 13 east at Winterset Res. on the 26th. 14 northwest over Thrybergh on 14th October. VC 64 reported few in the early months with one to three birds normally reported but eight at Fairburn Ings on 27th/28th January. Slightly more widespread and numerous towards the latter months with, again, usually only one to three birds reported but 29 west at Fairburn Ings on 24th August with 24 west there on 17th September; seven to 12 at Swillington Ings during September and October plus a further seven west there on 6th September.

One or two birds occasionally in VC 65 at Thornton Steward; Great Langton; Nosterfield; Stapleton and Forcett Park with one to four regularly at Bolton-on-Swale with a maximum of nine on 6th September.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Possibly bred along the Lower Derwent valley where up to four males and three females were present throughout the breeding season. The first to arrive here was a male on 24th March with the last, a female, on 14th August. A pair were thought to have attempted to breed at Fairburn Ings but no young seen. Apart from the Lower Derwent, reported from several other locations in VC 61 with the first being two at Kilnsea on 18th March then, two at Filey on the 29th with two at Pulfin Bog on the 31st. One to two at Flamborough; Hornsea Mere; Haverfield Ponds; Kelk and Tophill Low Res. during the spring with, again, one or two, in autumn at Filey; Hornsea Mere; Pulfin Bog; Holmpton; Tophill Low Res. and Spurn with the last south at Hornsea on 6th October.

In VC 63, a pair at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th March. One at Blacktoft on 3rd May then two pairs on the 4th but one pair the following day. Single birds here on the 16th May and 2nd July; at Edderthorpe on 18th/19th June; Treeton Dyke on 6th; 8th and 10th June and Thorpe Marsh from the 18th to 22nd July. Many records from Wath/Broomhill but no evidence of breeding. A pair present from 12th April to 26th May, single birds from 12th to 14th and 17th June; from 16th to 21st July and on the 30th. One to three there throughout August with four on the 30th and remaining until 6th September with the last bird on the 18th.

The first birds in VC 64 were a pair at Keswick Fitts on 5th April. Most reports in this VC coming from the Aire valley with frequent sightings at Fairburn Ings; Swillington Ings and Leventhorpe Hall Pond; at least five birds being involved moving between these three

locations. In mid to late August up to six were at Swillington (involving at least eight individuals) with the last reported on 6th September.

The only record from VC 65 was of a pair at Pallet Hill on the 13th May.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

An estimated 60 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent valley with one pair at Pulfin Bog being the only other breeding record from VC 61. Single pairs bred in VC 63 at Methley; Whitwood; Sprotborough Flash and Denaby Ings with two pairs at Potteric Carr and Blacktoft Sands. In VC 64 the only breeding records came from Mickletown Ings where two pairs reared 12 young and from Fairburn Ings where two pairs reared ten young. Bred at Pallet Hill, in VC 65 and may have done so at Bolton-on-Swale.

The largest counts from VC 61 were at Tophill Low Res. with 134 in September; 128 in October and 140 in November but an exceptional count of 290 on 19th August. Hornsea Mere had 102 on 26th September with 79 on 27th November.

Several locations in VC 63 had over 30 birds with higher counts of 56 at Broomhill Ings on 24th September; 54 at Blacktoft on 22nd November and 78 on 10th December; 53 at Pugney's C.P. on 9th September increasing to 63 on 15th; 81 on 16th then down to 74 on the 23rd.

Quite widespread in VC 64 though few records of more than ten birds away from the Aire Valley. Fairburn Ings held 56 on 27th January with 99 on 4th February; 73 on 3rd March; 71 on 25th August; 203 on 15th September, thereafter, decreasing to 94 on 11th November but then an increase to 136 on 16th December. Nearby Swillington Ings had 50 on 7th January; 100 during October but an influx giving 205 on 27th then 171 on 17th November and 61 on the 1st December. There is obviously some interchange between these two waters.

Maxima in VC 65 being 27 at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th September with 23 on 16th October.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

One at Hornsea Mere on 14th August was seen occasionally throughout September and on 7th October (TDC:SLJ *et al.*). Three there on 24th October (EWC) and two on 25th November (TDC *et al.*).

In VC 63, single males were reported at Potteric Carr on 1st January (AJS:NPW); at Winterset Res. on 29th August (JRS *et al.*); Bentley Tips on 6th/7th September (MJP *et al.*) and Angler's C.P. from 14th October to 4th November (PB *et al.*).

A male at Swillington Ings, VC 64, on 13th October (AJR:IAR *et al.*).

A Red-crested Pochard $\times$ Pochard hybrid was at Methley on 11th March and occasionally at Fairburn Ings during the summer.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

In VC 61 three pairs bred at Pulfin Bog; two at Broomfleet; two at Welton; two at Newport; two at Burton Constable and one at Rise Park. In VC 63, ten pairs at Blacktoft and one at Potteric Carr. Five pairs at Mickletown Ings, in VC 64, with six at Fairburn Ings.

Numbers in the east of the county were not particularly high with maxima at Hornsea Mere of 24 on 11th February and 760 on 6th October; at Tophill Low Res. up to 186 in January and a record count for the location of 560 on 21st October. The Lower Derwent valley held only 60 in January with 700 during February then 22 in March; few during the latter months excepting December when 310 were present. Elsewhere in the York area; 106 at Cawood on 30th January with 133 on 1st February; 100 on 13th and 105 on 15th.

Highest counts in VC 63 were from Winterset Res. with 123 on 14th January and larger numbers during the latter months when 300 were reported on 30th September; 880 on 29th October with 1035 on 18th November, thereafter, decreasing to 533 on 25th November; 157 on 1st December with about 100 to the year's end. 103 at Pugney's C.P. on 24th November.

In VC 64 the highest counts were from Swillington Ings during the early months with 427 on 27th January; 413 on 3rd February decreasing to 183 by 2nd March and then in the

latter months 319 on 25th November and 386 on 1st December. Nearby Fairburn Ings had peaks of 215 on 13th January; 295 on 18th February then 175 in early March. 170 there during August with 200 in September; 180 in October rising to 190 in November with 355 by early December peaking at 430. The only other locations in this VC holding more than 100 were Farnham with 138 in January and Malham Tarn where 350 were present on 10th March and 200 on 2nd December.

Maxima at Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, were 160 on 21st January with 147 on 15th December.

Only very light passage along the coast with 26 south at Spurn on 3rd October as maximum. At Sunk Island, 37 flew west up the Humber on 8th September with 22 west there on 15th.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

An adult male at Fairburn Ings from 23rd March to 7th April and again on 12th April; 18th and 25th May and from 1st to 18th July (JH). A different male at Swillington Park on 31st March (MJH:JCL:AJM) and what may have been the Fairburn Ings bird, at Swillington Ings from 16th May to 2nd June (GLH *et al.*). An eclipse male at Angler's C.P. from 3rd August to 11th September (JMT *et al.*).

Addition to the 1989 Report: A male at the Rother Valley C.P. from 8th to 28th September (DH).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

The male at Swillington Ings reported in late 1989 remained into 1990 being present until 28th February returning on the 16th September and staying until 31st December (MB *et al.*). What was considered to be the same bird was recorded at Mickletown Ings on 17th and 20th February (BT) and at Fairburn Ings from 28th July to 13th August and again from 24th to 30th August (RH).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

About 40 pairs bred along the Lower Derwent valley whilst elsewhere in VC 61 eight pairs bred at Pulfen Bog; three at Tophill Low Res. and at least one at Scampston; Settrington and Place Netwon (first ever). The only breeding record from VC 62 was of a single pair at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough. In VC 63, reported as breeding at 18 locations with 43 pairs and at least 118 young being fledged. Bred at 13 locations in VC 64 but success overall poor; many pairs rearing two to five young whilst at Fairburn Ings 16 pairs bred but only five hatched 20 young, none of which fledged. A disastrous breeding season at Bolton-on-Swale with only one pair against 14 last year while Scorton Quarry had nine broods compared with five last year.

Highest counts in VC 61 were at Hornsea Mere with 296 on 16th January and 780 on 6th October whilst at Tophill Low Res., up to 500 were present in January and 398 in February. Peaks in late summer were 360 on 15th July with 700 on 1st August; 535 on 5th and 470 on 12th. Maxima during the latter months being 410 in September; 700 in October; 336 in November and 500 in December.

Only small numbers reported in VC 62 whilst in VC 63, counts of 100+ were reported from Catcliffe Flash; the Rother Valley C.P. and Thrybergh Res. with larger numbers at Pugney's C.P. where 270 were present on 14th January; 326 on 18th November and 508 on 16th December. Wintersetts Res. held 267 on 11th February and 336 on 18th November.

Swillington Ings and nearby Fairburn Ings held the largest numbers in VC 64 with the former having 411 on 14th January; 350 on 3rd February; 206 on 28th July; 313 on 18th August then between 200 and 280 until 24th December when 496 were present. Fairburn Ings had 336 on 13th January; 400 on 17th February and up to 310 during the early March; between 210 and 280 throughout September and October then 306 on 11th November and 558 on 1st December. Other waters in this VC to occasionally hold more than 100 birds were Hay-a-Park; Eccup Res.; Mickletown Ings and Farnham; all having between 116 and 148 as maxima whilst Malham Tarn held 100 on 24th April. Up to 205 at Nosterfield, in VC 65, in September.

Maxima at Bolton-on-Swale were 160 on 21st January; 182 on 18th February; 152 on 17th July; 154 on 18th November and 187 on 17th December.

51 flew north off Hornsea on 5th November otherwise little coastal passage was reported.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Slightly more along the coast than last year with eight at Barmston on 3rd October; 14 there on 3rd November; nine on the 4th and 40 on the 5th. Ten at Flamborough on 22nd October; 11 on 3rd November and 18 on the 5th. Seven flew south at Spurn on 21st July with six there on 10th November. Inland, in VC 61, 12 were on Hornsea Mere on 29th November whilst ten flew west at Pulfin Bog on 21st October. Five were on the Lower Derwent valley on 30th December.

Few records in VC 63 during the early months with single birds at two locations. One to two occasionally at seven locations during the latter months. Five at the Rother Valley C.P. on 14th October and 19, including seven males, at Fly Flatts Res. on 16th September.

A poor year in VC 64 with no records during the first part of the year. The first record was of a female at Ecup Res. on 16th August and another at Farnham on 4th September. Between 28th October and 23rd December up to three birds, involving four individuals, were reported from either Swillington; Fairburn or Mickleton Ings.

A female at Cleasby on 28th January and, at Bolton-on-Swale, two on 11th April; two males on 8th August and a female on the 10th, were the only records from VC 65.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Slightly more along the coast than in 1989 with small numbers during the early months, maxima being 34 at Flamborough on 27th January and 55 on 31st March. Larger numbers during the latter months when 25 were reported from Spurn on 13th October whilst at Flamborough, 62 were present on 22nd October; 72 there on 6th November with 54 on the 23rd and 104 on 25th. 53 reported from that location on 13th December. Northerly passage noted at many coastal locations with 20 at Spurn on 22nd October when 74 passed Barmston. 40 off Hornsea on 5th November with 18 off Barmston; 76 at this latter location on the 9th with 122 on the 24th and 29 on the 27th. Frequently reported along the Humber at Sunk Island, invariably one to three birds, but 84 on 24th November.

Inland, a female at Ardsley Res. on 1st and 2nd January with a first year male at Dawley Gap, near Bradford, on 19th February.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Few during the early months with two off Hornsea on 18th April and one at Hornsea Mere on 17th January. A pair at Swillington Ings on 11th May was rather unusual.

In autumn, singles at Spurn on 20th August and 17th September with one at Scarborough on 14th September. Occasionally along the coast in October then frequent during early November with two at Flamborough and one at Barmston on 3rd; the following day; three at Spurn; five north at Hornsea; 17 at Barmston; 51 at Flamborough (the highest daily count ever for Yorkshire) with 20 at Scarborough. Six at Spurn on the 5th with seven at both Hornsea and Barmston and 22 at Flamborough. Four at Hornsea and 28 at Flamborough on the 6th with five on the 7th and four on the 9th at the latter location. Single birds then occasionally at several coastal locations to the end of the year.

Away from the coast, a male flew west at Sunk Island on 4th November whilst a party of nine were at Chelker Res. on the 6th (FAW). Singles at Tophill Low Res. on 21st October and 25th November; at Kelk, near Driffeld, on 1st December and at Bolton-on-Swale a male present from 4th November to the end of the year.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

An average year along the coast; Spurn reporting few during the early months but regular in autumn with 135 on 3rd August; 212 on 21 October and 497 the following day. Flamborough recorded birds almost daily during January with a peak of 104 on 13th then only small numbers throughout the remainder of the early months. Regular in July with maxima of 203 on 13th; 271 on the 15th and 184 on the 26th. Peaks in the next two months

were 212 on the 16th September with 226 on 21st October and 410 on the 22nd reflecting the two highest counts at Spurn. Passage at Flamborough continued into November with 205 on the 4th; 244 on the 6th and 110 on the 10th. The passage on the 4th also being noted at Hornsea when 362 flew north and at Barmston with 490 north following 214 north there on the 3rd; 394 north here on the 5th. Up to 500 were reported in Filey Bay during November and December; of these, on 25th November, only two were males. Small numbers were reported along the Humber at Sunk Island with 11 west on 24th March; 36 west on 4th November and 13 west on the 24th whilst at Blacktoft, 95 moved west on 2nd August.

One to three reported from some 15 inland locations in VCs 61, 63 and 64. Larger counts were 17 west at Fairburn Ings on 27th July; 35 west there on 1st August with 25 on the 18th. 18 at Pugney's C.P. on 10th November with 15 staying until the 15th, nine to 18th, declining to two by the 25th. Eight at Winterset Res. on 16th June; seven at Swillington Ings on 15th May; seven north over Leeds on 24th June with four at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 13th September and six at Swillington Ings on 4th November.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Only reported occasionally during the early months but three at Filey on 22nd January and four at Flamborough on 17th February. One flew west at Sunk Island on 7th January.

More records during the latter months usually one to three birds being involved but four south at Spurn on 21st October when 13 were reported from Flamborough. Nine north at Hornsea on 6th November with 14 that day at Flamborough and eight there on the 7th. Five in Filey Bay on 2nd December and five at Flamborough on the 13th.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

A male north at Barmston on 18th January (PP); an immature male north at Flamborough on 21st January (MN:PAL:GAS:PJW) with a male on the sea in Filey Bay, between Reighton and Hunmanby, on 11th November (TI).

The Barmston and Filey birds are still under consideration by BBRC.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

In VC 61, Hornsea Mere held the highest numbers with maxima of 312 on 5th April and 130 on 29th December. Tophill Low Res. had monthly maxima of 66 in January; 60 in February; 113 in March; 24 in October; 52 in November and 41 in December. The Lower Derwent valley held 14 in February; up to 29 in March; 30 in April and ten in December.

Small counts in VC 63 excepting Pugney's C.P. where 27 were present on 14th January and 18 on 1st December. Winterset Res. had maxima of 53 in January; 75 in February; 82 on 4th March; 27 in April; 49 on 27th November and 81 on 31st December. Widespread during both winters in VC 64, usually one to ten birds being recorded but higher counts during the early months from Gouthwaite Res. with 29 in March; Hay-a-Park with 26 in January; Knotford Nook, 37 on 10th February; 30 at Eccup Res. on 24th February with 64 at Fairburn Ings on 24th February. The first returning bird was at Swillington Ings on 6th September with numbers in the latter months generally lower; maxima being 30 at Fairburn Ings and 28 at Swillington Ings, both on 11th November; 34 at Eccup Res. on 5th November; 20 at Lindley Wood Res. and 28 at Swinsty Res., both on 4th November with 25 at Ripon Racecourse on 14th December.

In VC 65, Bolton-on-Swale had 49 on 14th January; 35 on 18th February; 41 on 11th March with 39 on 2nd December whilst Nosterfield had 27 in March.

Coastal passage was noted during both winters with a peak in early November when, on the 3rd, 79 flew north off Barmston with eight at Scarborough; on the 4th; 86 at Hornsea; 156 at Barmston and 122 at Scarborough; 81 north at Hornsea on the 5th whilst at Barmston, 205 were reported with 22 at Flamborough and 40 at Scarborough. This passage was also reflected along the Humber with 30 west at Sunk Island on the 4th; 56 west at Saltend on the 5th and, at Blacktoft, 98 west.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Scarce in VC 61 with a pair at Brandesburton on 23rd February; single *redheads* at Tophill Low Res. on 1st February and 3rd November; north at Filey on 4th December and at Hornsea Mere on 23rd December.

Likewise in VC 63 with a *redhead* at Winterset Res. on 1st, 8th and 9th January, and, what was probably the same bird, at Pugney's on the 7th.

Several records in both winters in VC 64 with birds present at Knotford Nook until 19th March. The three *redheads* reported from this water at the end of 1989 remained until 11th February then two until 9th March with three again on 10th and 11th with the last two until the 19th. One at Harewood Park on 7th February with two at Eccup Res. on 17th February and one on 17th March. The *redhead* at Fairburn Ings, first reported in December 1989, was joined by an immature male on 11th February, both remaining until 12th March. During the latter months; a *redhead* at Hay-a-Park on 31st October; one at Swillington Ings on 7th, 11th and 15th November then until the year's end with a second bird on 15th December; another bird at Mickleton Ings on 22nd November. Two at Fairburn Ings on 26th November with four from 1st to 5th December then three to year's end. Two *redheads* returned to Knotford Nook on 1st December remaining into 1991.

In VC 65, a *redhead* at Nosterfield from 27th October to 4th November and another there on 24th December.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Two pairs displaying at Redmires Res. on 31st March; a female and six young on 13th June but female only on 28th.

One to four occasionally at most coastal watch points during the latter months though four at Flamborough on 10th June. Six at Filey on 18th May and six at Spurn on 4th November when 22 flew north off Scarborough with 32 north at Flamborough on the 6th. Occasionally seen along the Humber at Sunk Island, invariably single birds but four west there on 25th March.

One or two at seven locations in VC 63; excepting Redmires Res. but six reported flying northwest at Winterset Res. on 6th November being reported later that day at Pugney's C.P. where they remained until the 15th. Considered to have been a poor year for this species in VC 64 with one or two birds at seven locations; four flew west at Fairburn Ings on 31st October with six northwest there on 3rd November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Bred along the River Rye in VC 62 with one pair at Hawnby; one at Butterwick; at least one at Duncombe Park and three at Rievaulx. In VC 64; at least four broods on the River Wharfe and at least five on the River Ure. No reports received from the River Wharfe above Grassington or from the Rivers Ribble or Aire. In VC 65 widespread records of breeding along the main rivers though no apparent expansion in range.

Up to six on the Lower Derwent valley during January with 37 in February; 25 in March; four on 7th April; one on 27th May then nine returning on 31st October with up to 25 in December. Otherwise scarce in VC 61 though in early November, 11 at Barmston on 3rd with eight there on the 6th when a similar number were recorded at Flamborough and nine were off Hornsea.

In VC 62 away from the breeding areas on the Rye, up to 20 at Castle Howard in January; seven in February; 15 in March with 11 in October; 43 in November and 106 in December.

Reported during the winter months at 19 locations in VC 63, usually less than ten birds but 13 at Broomhill Ings from 11th to 18th February; at least 12 at Winterset Res. until early March peaking at 23 on 10th February and 21 on 30th December. Maximum at Thornton Moor Res. were 29 on 25th February and 34 on 23rd December whilst 14 were at Redmires Res. on 1st November.

Very large numbers at Hay-a-Park, in VC 64, with up to 260 during January; 315 in February (the highest count for Yorkshire); 100 in March; 100 in November and 200 during December. These extremely high numbers were reflected by far lower counts at other

locations in this VC; Eccup Res. only having 84 on 4th March; 73 on 21st January and 54 on 15th December whilst other sites had maxima of less than 35 though at High Batts N.R. up to 43 were reported in March and 52 during early April. 25 at Malham Tarn on 16th September being the peak at that water.

The only location in VC 65 to hold large numbers was Leighton Res. with 109 on 21st January; 107 on 18th February; 71 on 18th April and 42 on 15th December.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Continues to spread being increasingly difficult to monitor in VCs 63 and 64. Bred for the first time in VC 61 with three (possibly four) pairs at Pulfin Bog and one pair at Hornsea Mere. Numbers continue to increase in this VC with monthly maxima at Tophill Low Res. of 37 in January; 36 in February; 32 in March; 19 in October; 20 in November and 48 during December. Numbers at Hornsea Mere peaked at ten during autumn whilst at Pulfin Bog 19 was the highest count on 18th November.

Not recorded in VC 62. In VC 63 continues to increase in the Sheffield area whilst breeding occurred at nine locations away from that region; three pairs at Potteric Carr (eight young); six at Worsbrough (29 young); two at Edderthorpe (five young); four at Broomhill Ings (18 young); two at Newmillerdam (nine young) with single pairs at Blacktoft; Pugney's C.P. and Harthill Res. Outwith the breeding season; 30 at Broomhill Ings in January with 29 in December whilst 25 were at Pugney's C.P. on 2nd December.

The only confirmed breeding in VC 64 occurred at Swillington Ings where two pairs reared six young and at Mickleton Ings with six pairs having 21 young. Quite widespread along the Lower Aire valley with 24 at Fairburn Ings on 6th January; 26 on 12th March and 29 on 30th September. Mickleton Ings usually had up to 20 during the early months but 32 on 26th March and 33 on the 29th though the largest counts came from Swillington Ings with 29 on 21st April; 37 on 29th September; 38 on 6th October; 66 on 27th October; 78 on 8th November and 80 on the 11th decreasing to 64 on 16th December.

Small numbers in VC 65 but the best year yet in that VC. One to three at Bolton-on-Swale from 23rd September to 14th December with four from 15th to the year's end. Two at Nosterfield on 13th and 14th September and one from 15th to the 29th.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Present at one location during the summer months. One flying south over Atwick on 12th August was probably the same bird seen flying high to the southwest over Spurn the same day. Two came in off the sea at Hornsea (with two Marsh Harriers) on 20th August (GRB) thence high to the southwest. A juvenile over Gouthwaite Res. on 26th August. On 1st September one flew south over Goxhill whilst the following day one flew southeast over Fairburn Ings and another was seen near Langsett. One over Filey on 23rd October.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One frequented the Glaisdale area, near Whitby, during early March (Miss J. Smith). One northeast over the River Trent at Blacktoft on 18th February. One on Barden Moor on 24th and 30th December with one also over Sprotbrough Flash on the 30th.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

An immature seen at Stone Creek on 22nd October (STMc) was seen the following day flying south over Kilnsea and the Humber near Spurn (BR:RW *et al.*).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

The first reported in VC 61 was on 14th April at Hornsea Mere with one at Wheldrake Ings (a male) the following day. Thereafter, in April, single birds at Barmston on 23rd; Kilnsea on 24th; Tophill Low Res. on 28th and Grimston on the 30th. Quite widespread in May with three at Kilnsea on the 5th and two at Flamborough on the 21st and at Spurn on the 16th, 20th and 22nd. The remaining occurrences were of single birds being recorded from Spurn (five); Kilnsea (three); Humber Wildfowl Refuge; Wheldrake Ings (three); Pulfin Bog (two); Grimston; Tophill Low Res. and Filey. In June; two at Spurn on the 1st

with one the following day; one at Flamborough on the 3rd and two at Patrington Haven on the 7th. Single birds in July at Sunk Island on the 15th; Spurn on the 28th and Pulfen Bog on the 29th. August saw birds on the 1st at Tophill Low Res. on the 4th at Spurn; the 10th at Fraisthorpe; 13th at Barmston; 18th at Spurn; 21st at Tophill Low Res.; 24th at Flamborough with two at Spurn on the 27th. During September single birds were at Barmston on the 1st; Tophill Low Res. on the 4th and 9th; Sunk Island on the 8th and Kilnsea on the 10th. One at Filey on the 22nd October and one at Easington on the 31st.

Not recorded in VC 62. In VC 63 at Blacktoft, a total of 17 birds were reported during spring with a male on 27th March; females on 18th/19th, 25th/26th and 30th April. One to two on 13 days during May with three on the 25th. A male arrived in June remaining until August whilst a second male was present on 8th June. 16 birds were reported during autumn with a male on 7th/8th July; up to five birds present in August and September with six on 29th August (at least seven juveniles being seen). The last were two on 28th September. Not recorded elsewhere in this VC.

Recorded in VC 64 as follows; different females at Fairburn Ings on 13th and 14th May; a *cream-crown* at Marton-le-Moor on 18th; an all dark bird at Great Preston on 23rd; an immature male near Harrogate on 27th and a female at Blubberhouses on the 29th. *Cream-crown* near Blubberhouses on 24th August; female at Fairburn Ings on 28th with another to the southwest there on 2nd September.

The only record from VC 65 was of a female flying south at Bolton-on-Swale on 8th May.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Only two locations reported roosting birds in winter; both in VC 63. Blacktoft had six during the early months with seven on 2nd February; five in March decreasing into April with the last bird on the 11th. One on 29th August then in autumn the first on 14th October with up to three in November and early December with four from the 14th to the year's end. Three on Broomhill Moor during January, thereafter, only one and again one during the latter months.

The decline of birds wintering in the east of the county continues. Two birds at Spurn on 31st October and two again on 11th November. Single birds were reported from the same location on four other days; on one day each at Filey; Barmston; Hornsea; Saltend; Kilnsea; Sunk Island and Tophill Low Res. Along the Lower Derwent valley, a male at North Duffield Carrs from 20th to 24th June; between Howden and Bubwith on 8th September and on some 20 occasions at Wheldrake Ings during the latter months.

Only two records from VC 62; a male at Leatholme Bank on 6th February and one northwest over Cropton Forest on 14th June.

Numbers reported in VC 63 away from the main roosts are considered to be in decline. A male at Winterset on 8th May and another from 3rd to 6th July. Two at Ughill on 17th January; two southwest over Thorne Moors on 11th September and two in the Redmires area during November and December. Single birds at two other locations during the early months and at three during the latter months.

In VC 64, one, occasionally two, reported from 16 high ground locations during the winter months. The only records away from the high ground were a ringtail at Fairburn Ings on 29th January; another there on the 17th October and a male at Staveley on 12th December.

An adult male near Richmond on 24th May with other VC 65 records being of two *ringtails* at Welton Fell during the early months and one near Yafforth on the 13th October.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A female/immature at Flamborough on 13th May (JCL) and an adult female near Stillingfleet on 3rd June (DP). A juvenile drifted off high to the southwest at Filey on 28th August after being present for a brief period at the Dams N.R. (REH:DJS:PMS *et al*). A juvenile at Grimston on 29th (TI) and southwest along the River Trent at Blacktoft the same day (possible these three records refer to the same bird).

Addition to the 1989 Report: an immature at Langsett on 24th and 25th June (JMT *et al*).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Breeding details masked by lack of definite reports though the population is thought to be upward of 20 pairs; the success is known to be poor in some areas though at others reported to be good. The overall trend is upward.

In the non-breeding months reported from Flamborough; Barmston; Hornsea; North Cave; Reighton; Atwick; Wheldrake and Sledmere, in VC 61. In VC 62, one at Scarborough in October whilst in VC 63, single birds were reported from Cawthorne; Huddersfield; Blacktoft; Howell Wood; Carlton and Scammonden.

In VC 64, a pair attempted to breed again at the 1989 location but left the area when tree felling operations commenced. In this VC reported away from the higher ground at Swillington Ings (female and juvenile together); at High Batts N.R.; Swillington Park; Leaventhorpe Hall; Harrogate and Fairburn Ings.

Addition to the 1989 Report: Successful breeding occurred near Leeds.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Probably still increasing in all areas. Had a good breeding season in the Barnsley area where 200 young were ringed from 60 nests. Atlas work in the Leeds area produced over 39 breeding records with probably another 20 pairs breeding. Southerly passage reported along the coast with 128 being recorded at Flamborough during the latter half of October; peaks being ten on 18th; 20 on the 19th and 20th; 21 on 21st and 15 on the 22nd. At Spurn; seven were present on the 20th October whilst 11 flew south there on the 31st.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Unsuccessful breeding occurred at one location with probable breeding taking place at a second location.

During the winter months one or two were reported in Upper Nidderdale with four near Gouthwaite Res. on 27th January; three were near Scar House Res. on 22nd January with three over Thorpe Ridge on 15th February. Three again at Scar House Res. on 2nd December. One or two in the Leighton Res. area during the first winter period whilst three were at Marrick Priory on 7th January.

Wandering individuals were reported from several locations on the higher ground of both VC 63 and VC 64 though few towards the east of these areas with birds reported from Newby Hall on 14th April; Wothersome on 14th July and Fairburn Ings on 1st September.

In VC 62 and VC 61, quite scarce though two were near Castle Howard on 10th August. Single birds reported from Skipwith on 27th January; Brandsby on 17th February; Brighton on 23rd August; Sherrif Hutton on 18th December; Wassand on 5th March; Grimston on 28th August; Filey on 24th October; East Newton on 27th October and Spurn on 31st. Unidentified buzzards were reported from Flixton on 18th and Spurn on the 31st October.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

One south at Atwick during the late afternoon of 30th October (WFC) may well have been the same bird seen flying south early the following morning at Spurn. Another south over Atwick on 4th December (WFC).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

All records this year concern single birds and unless extremely obvious no attempt has been made to link individual sightings. The first was on 4th April at Fairburn Ings thence other April sightings being; High Batts N.R. on the 6th; Brookfoot (VC 63) on 9th; Tophill Low Res. on 13th; Winterset Res. on 15th; Broadstones Res. on 16th; Lindley Moor Res. on 19th and Thrybergh C.P. on the 27th. In May, at Potteric Carr on 1st; Saltend and High Batts N.R. on 6th; the latter being present on the 7th also, when birds were reported from Lindley Wood Res.; Castle Howard and Sprotborough Flash; at Nosterfield on the 8th; Fairburn Ings on 9th; Brandsby and Boltby (same bird); Blacktoft and Brighouse on the 10th; Wheldrake Ings on 12th; Hornsea Mere; Filey; Scargill and Hutton Magna on 15th;

at Filey and Spurn on the 16th; Winscar Res. and Hackfall Wood (VC 64) on 19th; High Batts N.R. on 20th; Gouthwaite Res. on 23rd; High Batts N.R. on the 27th; Broomhill and Winterset Res. (same bird) and Gouthwaite on the 28th and Tophill Low Res. on the 31st. Few in June with birds at Spurn on the 3rd; Broomhill Res. from 12th to 14th and at Westwood (VC 64) on the 26th. Only one record in July of a bird at Sprotborough Flash on the 15th being recorded also at nearby Candy Farm the same day.

Few autumn records; in August at Pulfin Bog on the 2nd; Gouthwaite Res. on 14th; Spurn on the 16th; Oustwick on 20th; Fairburn Ings on the 24th and Wheldrake Ings on 28th (this bird remaining until the 5th October and being reported from Escrick on 7th September). One at Pugney's C.P. on 14th September with another at Wansford on 18th; 19th and 21st. One frequented an area to the west of Sheffield from 16th September to 12th October.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

No comments were received to suggest any change in status. Passage south along the coast was noted in late October at Flamborough with peaks of 18 on 16th; 14 on 17th; 15 on 18th; 16 on 21st and 15 on the 27th whilst Spurn had 21 on the 31st. Westerly passage along the Humber reported from Sunk Island with 11 on 15th September as maximum. Elsewhere; 16 at Scar House Res. on 27th August was the highest count reported.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Single female on Bransdale Moor on 29th June (ADW *et al.*).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

No change in breeding status indicated from VC 65 whilst in VC 64 'breeding took place on most of the usual moorlands' perhaps indicating a slight decrease. Few details from VC 63 but five pairs bred in the Barnsley and Huddersfield areas with several more probably doing so. Ten pairs fledged young in the Sheffield area though the split between Yorkshire/Derbyshire was not stated. Three juveniles near Fylingdales (VC 62) on 20th July.

Well distributed outside the breeding season in VC 63 being recorded from over 30 lowland locations; rather more of the records being in autumn.

Many birds stayed on the high ground in VC 64 owing to the mild winter weather with most lowland sightings being in December.

Widespread along the coast and estuary during both winters; normally single birds but two occasionally at Filey; Flamborough; Barmston; Spurn and Sunk Island. Several records from inland in VC 61 though stated as a rather poor year for this species along the Lower Derwent valley but two were at Ellerton on 14th April. At least two birds frequented Tophill Low Res. during both winters.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A partly fledged juvenile was seen in South Yorkshire in late August otherwise no indications of possible breeding.

The first of the year was at Fairburn Ings on 19th April then at High Batts N.R. on the 24th. Quite widespread by early May though at all locations records concerned single birds. Similarly quite well distributed in June with two at Spurn on the 2nd otherwise all singles. Three flew south at Spurn on 1st July whilst three were reported from Fairburn Ings on both 12th August and 9th September; two at Spurn on 4th August; at Midhope Res. on 8th September and at the Winterset C.P. on the 27th. Single birds were reported from some 45 locations during the months of July/August and September with records becoming scarce by the middle of this month. The last records being at Tophill Low Res. on 12th October and High Batts N.R. on the 31st.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Breeding distribution not fully reported but would appear to be increasing. At least seven pairs attempted to breed in VC 65 though no reports were received of any success.

No reports from VC 64 but judging from the number of lowland records it is either increasing or static. At least two pairs bred successfully in VC 63 whilst in VC 62 birds were present at two locations during the summer months with two juveniles being flushed by beaters near Hawnby on 23rd August.

In VC 61 reported from seven coastal locations with two at Flamborough on 6th May; on 29th September otherwise single birds were involved. Inland in this VC two were reported near Selby on 9th September. Occasionally reported along the coast of VC 62 whilst in VCs 63 and 64 outwith the breeding season quite widespread in lowland locations though scarce in the lowlands of VC 65.

One reported perched on a balcony rail of a high rise flat in Leeds on 12th March.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Comments received were; from VC 65 'continued to be affected by disease but effects were more localised than the statement of last year implied with the higher moors appearing to be the most seriously affected'. In VC 64, no significant comments whilst in the Barnsley area of VC 63 'the plague of 1989 made a large reduction in the number of breeding pairs this year; success rate though appears to have been high'. No comments from VC 62.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

In VC 65 birds were regularly recorded on Feldon Ranges with a maximum of six males and two females. Three males on Cottersdale Moor on 13th January.

13 adults seen in Upper Nidderdale during breeding atlas work; a female near Malham Tarn on 28th January and a male in Langstrothdale on 31st March.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Apparently little change in status though releasing of pure birds and 'ogridges' in some locations (particularly in VC 61) makes the true status difficult to assess. The large coveys seen in some areas may be entirely due to released birds. 60 at Wentbridge on 7th November; 44 at Wilsic on 1st September; 46 at Edderthorpe on 27th November and 41 at Darrington in October with 40 at Nosterfield on 30th September being the largest reported. A covey of 38 near Atwick on 10th October contained at least 30 'ogridges'.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Reports on status varied 'less numerous near Atwick than ten years ago'; 'a further downward trend near Tophill Low Res.'; 'still seems to be on the decrease around the Pocklington area'; 'seems to be picking up slightly in the Lower Derwent valley'; 'well distributed around the Doncaster area' (40 pairs at Wilsic; 20 on Hatfield Moors). Largest counts were 78 at Womersley in December; 43 at Sunk Island on 27th October with 53 on 2nd December; 47 at Out Newton on 1st December.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

A very unusual record of one at Thornton Ellar on 30th and 31st January (TED:ML).

Two pairs bred between Boltby and Hawnby being seen with five and four chicks each whilst one was seen at Wheldrake Ings with 12 chicks.

Quite widespread with many calling birds reported; invariably singles but four at Pulfin Bog on 9th June and two the following day; two at North Duffield Carrs on 13th June; two near Hay-a-Park on 12th May; two at Nosterfield on 5th June and two at Lindholme on 3rd July. Single birds were reported on one day or more in VC 61 at Haverfield Quarries; Staxton Wold and Butterwick; in VC 63, at Womersley; Bolton Ings; Pugney's C.P.; Finningley; Wentbridge; Wadworth; Carlton Marsh; Bretton Park; Concorde Park (Sheffield); Wilsic; Blackmoorfoot; Broadstones and Gildingwells whilst in VC 64; at East Keswick; Rossett Green (Harrogate); Ripon; Eccup Res.; Fairburn Ings and Swillington Ings.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

No change in status with widespread releases, for shooting, maintaining numbers.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Reported again from Whitcliffe Woods, near Richmond.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

The only proven breeding record was from Blacktoft with four pairs. Breeding was suspected at Fairburn Ings; Hornsea Mere; in the Lower Derwent valley/Pocklington Canal area and near York Water Works.

Widespread during both winters; frequently one to three birds being recorded but four at Tophill Low Res. on 11th November; four at Carlton Marsh in March and five there in October; four at Winterset Res. during the early months with five at Potteric Carr in autumn. Four at Staveley in early January; up to six at Fairburn Ings during this month; five in February with six during mid-October; six to nine during November/December with 12 on 20th December. By far the highest numbers were reported from Blacktoft where 25 were present on 7th January and 32 on 31st October. Remains scarce in VC 65.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

One at Filey on 1st April was the first record for that location. In VC 63 an immature at Wath from 29th August to 2nd September with a first winter bird on 14th September. Reported in autumn from Blacktoft with adults from 12th to the 26th August and on 13th September with immatures from 21st to 27th August and 8th September.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Breeding occurred near Penistone where an adult and two juveniles were reported frequently from a traditional hay meadow (LI per AHVS).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

In many locations the status would appear to be unchanged though in the Bielby area of VC 61; the Staveley area of VC 64 and some of the Dales areas of VC 64, numbers have been decimated or completely wiped out by Mink.

The largest gatherings reported were, 105 at Broomhill Ings in March with 120 in September; 100 at Sprotbrough Flash in July and October; 100+ at Esholt S.F. during the winter.

Coot *Fulcia atra*

Continues to expand its breeding range in VC 63 albeit very slowly. Elsewhere status would appear to be unchanged though, as with the previous species, Mink took a heavy toll of young birds at Staveley whilst Fairburn Ings reported a very poor breeding season.

In VC 61 the highest counts were 1154 at Hornsea Mere on 13th September with 400 at Wheldrake Ings on 25th February. Winterset Res. had by far the largest numbers in VC 63 with 1160 on 22nd November and up to 1275 at the end of the year. Elsewhere in this VC, 380 were recorded in the Rother Valley C.P. on 25th September whilst during the early months five locations had maxima of 100 to 250 with six having a maxima of 100 to 300 in the latter months.

Fairburn Ings held the largest numbers in VC 64 with 636 on 13th January down to 427 on 30th June then increasing to 675 on 22nd July; 740 on 1st September; 1151 on the 15th and 1168 on the 22nd, thereafter, numbers fell to 530 in November and December. 439 were at Farnham in December; 514 at Hay-a-Park also in December with 490+ at Knotford Nook on 20th January.

The only large counts in VC 65 were from Bolton-on-Swale where 670 were present in January; 542 in February; 640 in July and 510 in September.

Crane *Grus grus*

One over Filey on 28th April was seen to depart to the southwest (SB:JAP:HJW).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Attempted to breed at Spurn once more but with no more success than in the previous two years. Elsewhere in VC 61, bred successfully at Hessle railway sidings though the ultimate outcome was unknown. Two pairs at Barmston but breeding not proven. Breeding along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area was described as average and again bred at Naburn though no young were recorded.

Pairs, in VC 62, were present at Wykeham Pits, Scarborough; Red House and Poppleton though no further details available. In VC 63, bred (unsuccessfully) at Blacktoft; at Blaxton G.P. (no details) with a pair present at both Candy Farm and Broadstones whilst in VC 64 reported as 'bred widely in the Dales and at many lowland locations, most being successful'. VC 65 did not comment but the status would appear to be unchanged although numbers reported in spring were higher than normal.

Monthly maxima at Spurn during the winter months were; 2500 on 8th January; 3200 on 18th February; 2800 on 7th March; 1500 on 23rd September with 2500 on 11th November and 2000 on both 6th and 31st December. Outwith these periods numbers in August increased to 1150 on the 30th with 1400 the following day then in September, 1100 on the 1st; 1219 on 2nd but then less than 500 until the latter days of that month when between 1000 and 1500 were reported. Counts along the Humber for the Birds of the Estuary Enquiry (BOEE) were 516 on 23rd September; 1359 on 14th October; 2487 on 11th November and 3057 on 9th December. 400+ counted in Cornelian Bay, Scarborough on 27th September. Passage noted along the coast, at Spurn, in March when 1157 flew northeast on 11 days with maximum of 480 on the 11th, and to the south in autumn with 105 on 24th July and 438 on 7th September. This southerly passage was also reported from Flamborough with 126 on 14th July; 101 on the 21st whilst in August, 109 passed on the 21st and 110 on the 26th. 80 flew south at Scarborough on 7th September.

At Blacktoft, in VC 63, westerly passage was recorded along the River Ouse between 12th July and the 8th September totalling some 914 birds with peaks of 132 on 24th July and 126 on 18th August. The only other flock of any size in this VC was of 15 west at Winterset Res. on 19th May.

The largest gatherings in VC 64 were 40 at Hawswick on 9th March and 54 at Kilnsey on the 12th whilst in VC 65, spring peaks reported were 48 at Masham; 69 at Thornton Steward Res. and 126 at Nosterfield on 26th February with 83 on the 28th; 95 on 1st March; 114 on the 3rd and 110 on the 14th (the total on 26th February being the highest ever recorded inland in Yorkshire).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One at Blacktoft from 8th to 10th May; two there from 13th to 27th July; three from the 7th to 20th August with one from the 22nd to 27th (AG *et al*). Three flew southeast from Swillington Ings on the morning of 22 December, being seen flying west over Fairburn Ings some 12 minutes later (MB:REL).

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedecnemus*

One arrived at Spurn on the 9th July being seen again on the 14th on the Humber shore before leaving northwards to Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea (IC). It was seen again at Spurn on the Humber shore on the 16th, 17th and 21st.

One flying east over Thorne Moors on 17th June (JER *et al*).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Very few pairs breeding in VC 61. One at Tophill Low Res. raised three young with another pair being successful at Burnby Pit (no further details). Attempted to breed at Naburn S.W. with another possible breeding pair at Pulfin Bog and North Duffield.

In VC 62, one pair with two young at Wykeham Pits, Scarborough with attempted breeding at York Water Works and at another location near York. In VC 63, 20 pairs bred successfully with a further ten failing to rear any young. Birds were present at some 20 locations though did not attempt to breed at all.

17 or more pairs bred in VC 64, as follows, Gouthwaite Res., four; High Batts N.R., one; Pool Paper Mills, one pair, four young; Knotford Nook, one pair, at least one young; Otley G.P., one pair; Swillington Ings, at least three pairs and five young; Mickletown Ings, one pair with four young; Fairburn Ings where three pairs were successful out of five.

In VC 65, single pairs bred at Leyburn; Jervaulx Abbey; Bolton-on-Swale; Pallet Hill; Nosterfield and near Kilpin Hall.

The first to arrive were at Hay-a-Park and Thrybergh C.P. on 13th March then Filey on the 14th; Farnham; Winthorpe and Bolton-on-Swale on the 16th, thereafter, becoming quite widespread. Well distributed during spring with peaks of ten to eleven at three locations in VC 63. Peak counts post breeding were 20 at Broomhill Ings on 8th July with 17 at Blacktoft on 22nd and 18 on the 28th. The last birds to be reported were at Wintersett Res. on 25th September; Redmires Res. on the 26th and Hornsea Mere the following day.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

In VC 61, at Spurn, at least 11 pairs bred being the only definite breeding record from the coast though two pairs held territory at Barmston. One, possibly three pairs bred on an industrial estate near Driffield.

In VC 63, one pair each at Potteric Carr; Tidworth and near Ousefleet with two each at Methley and Funningley whilst about five were reported from Blaxton. Bred in VC 64 at Farnham; Swillington Ings, both with two pairs, and at Mickletown Ings and Gouthwaite Res. with one pair at each. Two pairs at Pallet Hill, in VC 65, with one each at Masham G.P.; Stapleton; Nosterfield and Preston-on-Scar.

The BOEE counts during the latter months gave totals of 272 on 23rd September; 73 on 14th October; 89 on 4th November and 107 on 9th December. Maxima at Spurn during autumn was 178 on 18th August with 193 on 2nd September. Sunk Island, along the Humber reported 274 on 26th August whilst in spring also on the Humber counts of 559+ between Paull and Saltend on 13th May; 240 near Saltend on the 14th with 1240 between Saltend and Cherry Cobb on the 19th (SLJ) were considered to contain a very high proportion of birds of the race *C.h. tundrae*.

This passage was also noted at Sunk Island (though no comments received as to race); here 608 were present on 12th May with 450 on 13th but only 20 on the 18th then 237 on 19th and 110 on 20th. It is highly likely that some interchange of birds took place between these locations. 101 at Barmston on 12th October was the highest count along the coast.

Maxima inland, in VC 63, were 18 at Broomhill Ings on 17th May with 19 there on 9th September and 24 at Redmires Res. on the 23rd. At Blacktoft, on the Ouse, 23 were present on 18th May with 43 on 1st June (this latter count considered to contain many birds of the race *C.h. tundrae*). 46 there on 10th August.

16 at Gouthwaite Res. on 8th May was the spring maximum in VC 64 whilst in autumn, 21 were at Swillington Ings on 7th August with 27 flying southwest there on 1st September whilst nearby Fairburn Ings had 19 on 29th August; 21 on 6th September and 11 on 4th October.

11 at Pallet Hill on 26th March was the maximum recorded in VC 65.

Addition to the 1989 Report: 16 pairs bred at Grimwith Res.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Birds again present in Upper Nidderdale between 29th April and 26th May with a maximum of 11 (MGHG). Five north at Snargate on 20th April (PH); one at Kilnsea on 20th and 21st (NAB) with two at Swinefleet on the latter date; one at Burbage on 29th (KGW). In May; one in the Broadstones Res. area from 1st to 3rd; three on Hamer Moor, Rosedale, on 7th with two the following day (MB:GS); one at Swinefleet on 9th with three west at Cupwith Res. on the 13th and four near Kilnsea on the 16th (DWO).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

One on ploughed land south of Swinefleet on 18th April (JED:SMD) is still under consideration by BBRC.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

The breeding status would appear to be unchanged with average to good numbers at the regular moorland sites in VC 63. Little information from VC 64 though during atlas work 216 adults were found in 24 tetrads in square SE07.

Counts under the BOEE during the latter months of the year were 1910 on 23rd September; 10,541 on 14th October (3000 on the Wildfowl Refuge; 5388 near Stone Creek); 12,957 on 4th November (3700 on the Refuge; 7500 Stone Creek); 11,419 on 9th December (1700 Refuge; 2118 Stone Creek and 4018 Sunk Island). Away from the estuary, 1000 at Barmston on 28th November whilst the Derwent valley had 1200 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th January and then 4000 regularly during February along the whole area from Wheldrake to Bubwith peaking at 6050 on the 1st. Less than 1000 here during the latter months until 11th December when 1000 were at Wheldrake Ings with 3000 along the valley as a whole by the end of the year.

In the York area, 1500+ were at Old Earswick on 1st January; 1700 at Copmanthorpe on 3rd February and 1600 at Shipton on 5th December.

In VC 63, 4500 were at Scawthorpe during the first week of January (this being a record count for the Doncaster area) decreasing to 2500 between the 8th and 12th. Other gatherings in this VC of more than 1000 were; 1100 at Blacktoft on 24th January with 1500 there on 29th August; 1450 on 18th November and 1200 during December; 1000 at Pugney's C.P. on 12th February and 21st December; 1200 at Todwick in March. 1000 at Broomhill Ings during late November and December with 1150 at Edderthorpe on the 11th December.

Flocks of similar size in VC 64 were 1000 at Ripon Racecourse on 7th January; 1000 at Wetherby on 3rd; 1800 off Kingsway Drive, Harrogate on 21st; 1200 off Norwood Lane, Harrogate on 26th March contained many 'northern' birds as did 750 at Bullerthorpe Lane, Leeds, on 19th April. Generally numbers during the latter months in this VC were lower but 3500 at Fairburn Ings on 26th November increasing to 4000 by the 30th then down to 3000 on 2nd December. Nowhere else having more than 600 birds.

Unprecedented numbers were at Bolton-on-Swale in VC 65 owing to disturbance at other locations; 1950 recorded on 18th November and 3750 on 2nd December being twice the previous highest count. 1600 were at Nosterfield on 26th January whilst up to 1500 were at Stapleton in December.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Winter monthly maxima at Spurn were, 41 on 14th January; 47 on 5th February; seven on 17th March; 98 on 23rd October; 30 on 20th November and 49 on 7th December. The BOEE counts during the latter months of the year gave totals of 960 on 23rd September (800 being between Hull and Easington); 618 on 14th October; 1898 on 4th November (1500 at Cherry Cobb) and on 9th December, 586. During the spring, 413 were at Stone Creek/Sunk Island on 20th April; 730 on 12th May (but only 11 the previous day) whilst on 19th May, 1932 were counted between Paull and Cherry Cobb (SLJ).

Away from the estuary, 53 at Barmston on 27th October with 63 there on 10th November. 22 were at Hornsea Mere on 13th September while further inland in VC 61; five were reported from Wheldrake Ings on 3rd May with eight on the 4th/5th; one on the 6th and four on the 8th.

A good year in VC 63 with single birds at four locations in spring in addition to being recorded on ten days at Blacktoft with three there on 19th May. In autumn; one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 29th July; Blacktoft on 31st then one to four at this latter location during August. Good numbers in September and October with one to two birds at 12 locations; larger counts being 30 at Winterset Res. on 12th and 13th September; 11 at Broomhill Ings on 15th September; six over Scout Dyke Res. on 14th September and 14 at Blacktoft on 22nd September.

VC 64 reported a similar year with one to two occasionally at Fairburn Ings; Leaventhorpe Hall Pond; Swillington Ings and Gouthwaite Res. during the early months. In autumn, unprecedented numbers were reported from Swillington Ings with 101 birds passing through; 61, in several parties, arrived from the southeast on 22nd September, departing

to the northeast; 17 did likewise the following day. One or two were occasionally recorded at Fairburn Ings (but three on 13th October; Staveley; Mickletown Ings and Otley G.P.).

The only records from VC 65 were of single birds at Nosterfield on 22nd and 25th September.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

In VC 61, bred in normal numbers along the Lower Derwent valley but few records from other areas around York. Ten to twelve breeding pairs in the Cave Wold area; 15 to 20 around Bielby; three at Tophill Low Res. Bred successfully near Driffield where many young birds were seen on MOD property. Many birds were holding territory at Barmston but no further details were received.

The BOEE counts gave low numbers on 23rd September with only 178 between Goole and Spurn; this increased a little to 618 on 14th October then 13,176 on 4th November (5000 at Cherry Cobb; 3500 on the Refuge) with 10,333 on 9th December (5150 on the Refuge). At Sunk Island, 1800 were present on 13th January; 1150 on 11th February with 2000 on 11th November and 1100 on 22nd December. Other counts of 1000 plus were 1650 at Barmston on 16th February; 2500 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th January; 5350 along the whole of the Lower Derwent valley on 1st February; 4600 on 8th March and 3250 on the 14th. 3500 at Wheldrake Ings on 18th December and 1200 at Ellerton/Aughton on 30th. 1800 near Bridlington on 26th October.

In VC 63, 10,000 recorded at Blacktoft on 14th November with 3500 there on 20th January, 3000 on Royd Moor on 19th July; 2000 at Scawthorpe in January, 2000 occasionally at Frickley and Cridling Stubbs whilst a further four locations had 1000 to 1500 during both winters.

The early winter maxima in VC 64 were 1700 at Fairburn Ings on 8th January on which date 2500 were reported from Yeadon Airport. 1000 at Swillington Ings; Knaresborough; High Batts N.R. and Kingsley Drive, Harrogate during January and February. In the latter months; 1000 at Collingham on 6th October; 1500 at Yeadon Airport on 17th November; 2000 at Swillington Ings with 1500 at Wetherby in December whilst at Fairburn Ings; 1600 on 8th November increasing to 2500 on the 11th and 3000 on 1st December.

The only large gathering reported from VC 65 was 5200 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st December.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

The BOEE counts gave 105 on 23rd September; 3003 on 14th October; 25,078 on 4th November (21,000 at Patrington Haven) with 23,828 on 9th December (9616 at Sunk Island with 13,000 at Patrington Haven). Maxima during the winter months at Spurn were; 6000 on 21st January; 5500 on 10th February; 400 on 7th March with 500 on 30th October; 3000 on 25th November and 1200 on 9th December.

Coastal passage was light with maxima on 3rd August when 109 flew south at Flamborough with 53 south at Hornsea and 468 at Spurn. 111 south at Spurn on 17th September and 122 on 3rd October.

Inland, in VC 61, two at Hornsea Mere on 4th August and two at Tophill Low Res. on 7th September. In VC 63, 29 flew west at Blacktoft on 10th August; nine north at Winterset Res. on 23rd September with four at Blacktoft on 8th. Two in the Rother Valley C.P. on 3rd October; Broomhill Ings on 17th October with three at Blacktoft on 21st. Singles recorded at six locations during autumn/winter.

One at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th May was the only spring record in VC 64. During the autumn/winter; three at Swillington Ings on 4th November flew northwest while single birds were reported from Farnham on 15th August; Swillington Ings on 18th/19th; 22nd/23rd September and 25th November. One at Fairburn Ings from 6th to 9th November and one at Otley G.P. on 2nd December.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

In the Scarborough area 58 were present in Jackson's Bay on 15th January with 27 there on the 18th when 36 were recorded in South Bay. 34 in Jackson's Bay on 15th November.

Monthly maxima at Filey were 38 in January; 41 in February; 63 in March then 30 in April with 13 in September and October; 90 during November then 50 in December. The only count received from Bridlington Bay was of 120 at Barmston on 29th December. Up to ten occasionally at Hornsea whilst counts at Spurn gave 76 on 30th January; 128 on 16th February up to 57 during March then up to 45 during the first half of April though 250 were recorded on the 10th with 150 on the 11th and 80 on the 14th. 89 on 16th May and up to 35 during the early part of June. 100 present on the 28th July with 117 on the 30th and 110 the following day. Up to 80 were reported regularly in August with peaks of 115 on the 3rd and 119 on the 18th. Thereafter, less than 80 excepting 140 on the 11th November.

Southerly passage was noted along the coast at Filey with 37 on 27th July and 52 on 3rd August on which date 236 were counted off Spurn.

Small numbers along the Humber at Sunk Island during spring and autumn; 20 on 10th June being the maximum.

Inland in VC 63, birds were reported in May from six locations with two at the Rother Valley C.P. on the 8th; three at Tinsley S.F. on the 13th and at Blacktoft on the 27th. Two at Blacktoft and one at Wombwell Ings on 5th June. Single birds at two locations in July; two in August and September.

Considered a poor year in VC 64 with singles in spring at Swillington Ings on 16th April; 7th/8th May; at Gouthwaite Res. on 5th and 21st May and at Fairburn Ings on 12th. Singles in autumn at Fairburn Ings from 30th August to 2nd September; 10th, 26th and 28th October. Two at Swillington Ings on 18th September.

In VC 65, one at Semerwater on 16th May and at Nosterfield the same day.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Scarce in spring with singles at Spurn on 6th, 13th and 23rd May; at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on the 6th (Spurn bird?); at Sunk Island 7th/8th and 28th April; 13th and 19th May and 20th June and at Tophill Low Res. on the 30th May. In VC 63, Blacktoft had two on 17th May with one on the 18th, 21st and 25th; four on the 26th then single birds in June on the 4th and 18th/19th. One at Thornton Moor Res. on 16th May and Wombwell Ings from the 28th to 30th. Three at Bolton-on-Swale on 20th May.

Widespread during the autumn with one to three at many locations. Larger numbers were reported from Hornsea Mere with 27 on 26th September then 13 on 27th; 16 on 29th then 17 on 1st October; 18 on the 2nd; 13 on 3rd; seven on the 4th with the last, four, on the 5th. Four or five at Tophill Low Res. between 17th and 22nd September; six at Blacktoft on 8th September and eight on 7th October; four at Redmires Res. on 14th and 15th September whilst four were at Broomhill Ings on 25th September. Six at Swillington Ings on 23rd September, five there on 24th and 26th; four at Mickletown Ings on 24th September whilst nearby Fairburn Ings had six on the 8th and 28th with eight on the 29th. The only record from VC 65 was of three at Nosterfield on 21st October.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Four at Burstwick G.P. on 8th May (SM) with two at Pugney's C.P. on the 4th (IB:PS). Single birds at Tophill Low Res. from the 9th to 14th May (EA:EK *et al*); at Sunk Island from 7th to 13th (JW) with another on the 15th (RTP) and at Mickletown Ings on the 21st (BT).

In autumn, one at Cherry Cobb on 11th August and at Blacktoft on 29th and 30th (AG *et al*).

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th and 20th July (MLD *et al*).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

One at Whiteholme Res. on 12th July (NCD:MH) was not accepted by BBRC.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Single birds reported from Pulfin Bog on 10th and 13th May (DGH); at Fairburn Ings from 29th August to 9th September (VAL *et al*); at Tophill Low Res. from 6th to 11th September (WR *et al*) and at Blacktoft on 24th September (AG *et al*).

Correction to the 1989 Report: Second sentence should read 'An adult at Blacktoft from 2nd to 9th July; another there on 25th August (AG *et al*)'.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Recorded in spring, in VC 61, from Spurn on 5th and 6th May; at Saltend with two on 13th May; three on the 14th and one on 20th; at Sunk Island where four were present on the 12th; two on the 19th and one on the 2nd June. Inland in this VC, one at Wheldrake Ings from the 4th to 16th May – this being the first spring record for the York area. In VC 63, recorded in May at Blacktoft with one on the 12th/13th; four on the 17th; eight on the 18th then three on 19th and one on the 24th. One at Winterset Res. on 4th/5th and at Broomhill Ings on the 12th and 14th. Three records from VC 64 with one at Fairburn Ings on 28th April and 5th May; two at Hay-a-Park on 28th May.

In autumn, widespread with two distinct peaks, the first comprising of adults in late July when 16 were recorded between Paull and Cherry Cobb on 28th with 52 at Blacktoft on the same day. Numbers at Blacktoft decreased to 26 by 4th August. Juveniles were reported from this location from 21st August. A second peak occurred in September with mainly juveniles being reported; the maxima being 14 at Tophill Low Res. on the 2nd; 36 at Blacktoft on the 7th whilst Sunk Island had 12 on the 1st, increasing to 20 by the 8th then down to 15 the following day. Numbers peaked later in the month at Hornsea Mere with 13 on the 26th whilst 20 were recorded at the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on the 23rd. The peak of early September was reflected at several inland locations with, on the 7th, ten at Fairburn Ings; on the 8th, seven at Gouthwaite Res.; 12 at Swillington Ings; seven at Nosterfield and nine at Winterset Res. On the 9th eight were recorded at Knostrop S.F. whilst seven were again at Gouthwaite Res. and eight at Mickleton Ings on the 12th.

With the exception of Hornsea Mere and the Humber Wildfowl Refuge, numbers during late September were low, generally one to three birds although quite widespread. However up to 13 remained during this period at Blacktoft. 20 flew over Winterset Res. on 2nd October otherwise only one or two being reported from some 17 locations during this month. A late bird at Fairburn Ings on 11th November.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Reported regularly at Filey until 31st May and again from the 13th July. Monthly maxima at this location being; 100 in January; 40 in February with 140 in March; 50 in April and 25 in May. During the latter months 19 were present in August; 29 in September; 20 in both October and November with no counts being reported for December. Smaller numbers at Flamborough with up to 53 in January; 38 in February and 25 in March. Up to 29 were recorded in November with 22 in December. Other counts along the coast were 89 at Whitby on 4th February and 70 on Scarborough East Pier on 15th November.

Few south of Flamborough Head with one to three occasionally at Barmston; Hornsea and Spurn though five flew north at Hornsea on 25th September.

One at Worsbrough Res. on 23rd October was the only inland record.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Bred at many traditional moorland sites in VC 63 though numbers not high. In VC 64 few breeding records but reported from eight tetrads in SE07 involving 41 adults and also present on Fountains Fell.

The BOEE counts during the latter months of the year gave 10,175 on 23rd September (with 4500 at Cherry Cobb; 1641 at Skeffling and 2145 between Spurn and Easington); 19,730 on 14th October (7000+ at Cherry Cobb and 6000 at Skeffling); 21,035 on the 4th November (with 8000 at Skeffling) and 18,996 on 9th December (of which 8970 were at Skeffling). Outwith these counts 3500 were at Sunk Island on 13th January; 3380 on 11th February; 690 on 11th March; 1050 on 15th April and 440 on 19th May. 527 present there

on 14th July increasing to 2550 by the 25th August then generally below 1000 to the end of the year excepting 2000 on 11th November. Winter monthly maxima at Spurn were; 1646 on 14th January; 1400 on 5th February; 1210 on 28th March; 2000 on 14th October; 1000 on 11th November and 1350 on the 9th December. Peak counts here outside these months were 1000 on 4th April; 1500 on the 24th July and 1000 on 21st and 23rd July.

Blacktoft, on the River Ouse, had maxima of 160 on 21st February; 420 on 23rd June and 620 on the 20th September.

Passage along the coast was reported from many locations with 207 south at Filey on 3rd August when 128 passed Flamborough; 180 north at Scarborough on 7th September; 246 at Flamborough on the 8th when 305 flew north at Filey with 166 the following day at Flamborough when 170 were recorded at Barmston. 340 flew south at Spurn on 2nd October whilst on the 14th, 124 moved south at Flamborough with 182 off Holmpton.

Low water levels at many fresh water locations resulted in good numbers being reported with over 100 at Hornsea Mere in September peaking at 168 on the 27th. Swillington Ings had an estimated 600+ birds pass through between 18th September and 9th October with 109 on 29th September and 79 on the 2nd October whilst at nearby Fairburn Ings numbers reported there were 73 on 28th September; 112 on 4th October then 138 on the 6th; 110 on the 21st and 95 on the 23rd. High numbers remained at this latter location to mid-December. Other inland winter counts of note were from the Lower Derwent valley where 230 were present on 15th February; 220 on 14th March and 240 on the 30th December. Large counts for specific locations were 37 at Winterset Res. on 11th September and 43 at Whiteholme Res. on the 29th May.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

An adult at Hornsea Mere on 22nd July (GRB).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Lekking was noted on several occasions on the Lower Derwent but with no subsequent proof of breeding. At this location, ten were present on 30th January with 28 on 8th February; 57 on the 14th March; 31 on 19th April and 30 on 3rd May. Blacktoft had seven on 12th January with single birds occasionally during February and March with seven present on the 31st. Spring passage, mainly males, peaked here on 8th April with 37.

Autumn passage at both Blacktoft and Tophill Low Res. was excellent with the former having 15 on 30th June; 54 on 22nd July and 74 on 7th August; these birds being mainly adults. A large influx of juveniles occurred in September with 125 on the 6th and a peak count of 144 on 14th October declining to 24 by 1st November. This second influx was mirrored at Tophill Low Res. where few were reported before the end of August when 16 were present on the 31st. 27 reported there on 2nd September increasing to 56 by the 14th; 77 on 24th with 121 on the 25th and a further increase to 148 on 1st October declining to 99 by the 5th then 34 by the 25th. These, as at Blacktoft, more than likely juveniles.

Very few reports elsewhere of more than ten birds; Bolton-on-Swale had 16 on 24th September with 11 on 15th August; Nosterfield, 17 on 1st September and 11 on 1st October; 12 at Broomhill Ings on 11th; 23rd and 24th September; 16 at Malham Tarn on 4th September and finally 11 at Cherry Cobb on 8th September. Reported during November from the Lower Derwent valley with 30+ on 14th November; 41 on 17th December increasing to 75 on the 30th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minima*

Slightly more records than last year with Tophill Low Res. having the best spring and autumn for some years. The last of the early months was at that location on 9th May whilst the first of the autumn was on 30th August at Fairburn Ings. Most locations reported single birds with two or three occasionally at Flamborough; Filey; Barmston; Hornsea Mere; Tophill Low Res.; Strensall and Otley G.P. together with several unnamed sites in VC 63. Larger counts came from Spurn with up to five present during the latter week of September. Six reported from the Rother Valley C.P. on 1st January with five there on 4th November;

five at Fairburn Ings on 27th and 28th September and four at Winterset Res. on 15th October.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Breeding numbers along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area appeared unchanged. Elsewhere in the York area, three to four pairs probably bred at Fulford Ings; up to four pairs at Bishopthorpe and two pairs at Clifton Ings. In VC 61, away from the Derwent, two pairs bred at Laytham with probable breeding at Pulfin Bog and Tophill Low Res.

No records from VC 62 whilst in VC 63 breeding numbers were apparently unchanged but land drainage on farmland continues to remove isolated breeding sites. Very few confirmed lowland breeding sites in VC 64 though drumming birds were reported from a further 11 locations including five at Fairburn Ings. Breeding status in the upland areas of this VC remains unchanged; Atlas work confirming breeding in 18 tetrads in SE07.

Numbers in VC 61 generally low with between 40 and 70 at Tophill Low Res. during September peaking at 94 on the 24th.

Maxima in VC 63, in both winters, was considered to be low; 150 at Worsbrough Res. on 10th January; 150 at Broomhill Ings during October with 105 there on 5th January. 91 counted at Worsbrough on 28th November with 68 at Blacktoft on 14th and 55 in the Rother Valley C.P. on the 17th.

140 on 16th January at Kingsley Drive, Harrogate, with c200 on 3rd February otherwise, in VC 64, numbers were low with 70 at Bogs Lane, Harrogate on 9th February and 46 at Farnham on 17th February; nowhere else reporting more than 20 during the early months. Numbers throughout autumn and the latter months of the year were very low with 45 at Fairburn Ings on 28th September; 34 at Swillington Ings on 15th September and 30 at Bishop Monkton on 29th December. Most other locations holding less than ten birds.

Addition to the 1989 Report: at least 17 drumming males at Grimwith Res. during the breeding season.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Breeding status apparently unchanged with many locations reporting roding birds but few definite breeding records received.

An influx was noted during late October with, at Spurn, 11 on the 20th; 20 on the 21st and 12 the following day. Flamborough had 25 on the 18th; 65 on the 20th; 45 on 21st and 25 on the 22nd whilst Filey had up to 11 during this period with 12 at Sunk Island on the 21st. Widespread records were received from VC 65 during this period. Reported by shooters and beaters to have been unusually common in winter around Hawaby (VC 62). 25 feeding along the edge of forest near Grantley on 10th February.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Spring passage along the Lower Derwent valley was again very low and although birds were occasionally seen displaying, breeding was not attempted. Regularly reported along the Humber at Sunk Island with one or two in January then ten on 3rd February; 12 on 31st March; 18 on 13th and 28th April; 26 on 11th August with 46 the following day then 18 on the 18th and 13 between the 25th and 27th. 30 on 1st September; 23 on the 8th with 18 on the 16th and finally one on the 4th November. 21 at Cherry Cobb on 28th July with 28 there on 14th October. Coastal passage occasionally noted with 30 at Filey on 3rd September; 12 at Flamborough on the 21st July and five at Spurn on 10th August.

In VC 63, regular at Blacktoft with four on 18th March; up to nine on the 31st then seven on 29th April and 13 between the 23rd and 31st May. A flock of 22 remained there throughout much of June and into July increasing to 27 on 21st July. 18 reported on 23rd August; up to five during September; nine on the 2nd October with 12 on the 3rd and seven on the 11th. Elsewhere in this VC, five at Broomhill Ings on 21st April; 12 south over Winterset Res. on the 9th July; ten in the Doncaster area during the period 4th to 10th September being reported from Potteric Carr; Denaby Ings; Old Denaby and

Broomhill Ings (11 at Potteric on 4th). One to three birds occasionally at seven other locations in this VC.

Reported from seven locations in VC 64 during the spring, invariably one to two birds but 21 at Swillington Ings on 24th March and seven at Fairburn Ings on 19th April. In autumn, five at Swillington Ings on 6th July with six at Fairburn Ings on the 10th. This latter location recorded birds throughout August with 12 on the 31st remaining until 3rd September. 11 flew into Swillington Ings on the 2nd from the east, may have been from Fairburn. One to three at these two locations until 22nd September when five were at Swillington Ings. One at Staveley on 22nd July and two at Farnham on 8th August were the only records from elsewhere in VC 64.

In VC 65, three at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th April with two on 26th May and 25th July whilst one was present on 25th May and 29th August. Two at Nosterfield on 20th May.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The BOEE counts during the latter months, conducted between Goole and Spurn, gave totals of 145 on 23rd September; 187 on 14th October; 756 on 4th November (660 near Skeffling/Easington) and 698 on 9th December. Counts along the Humber at Sunk Island, outwith the periods above, were 319 on 6th January; 363 on 3rd February; 100 on 31st March; 137 on 27th April; 135 on 6th May then 166 on 9th June; lower numbers then until 105 on 1st September with 36 on 6th October; 144 on 24th November and 150 on 16th December. Maximum on the Humber at Spurn being 85 on 5th May though record numbers were recorded passing east here during early May with 2082 on eight days to the 9th; the majority being recorded on the 2nd with 945 and the 3rd when 982 were counted. Very few birds recorded elsewhere in this VC with the exception of 17 at Wheldrake Ings on the 30th April then two on 3rd May and three south there on the 6th July.

Few in VC 62 with 15 at Burniston being the only report of more than two birds.

The easterly passage at Spurn in early May was reflected in VC 63 at Blacktoft where 26 passed on the 3rd. Autumn passage here was poor with only 44 birds recorded between 25th June and 29th August; five on 16th July and on 11th August being the maxima. Eight were present on 21st October with ten on the 29th. One to three occasionally away from the river in this VC with higher counts of four near Ingbirchworth on 1st and 2nd June; eight west over Lindley Moor Res. on 8th July and 16 at Broomhill Ings on 6th October.

In spring, in VC 64, only noted in the Aire valley at Mickletown Ings (one); Fairburn Ings (two singles) and Swillington Ings where three were present on 30th April; one on 5th May and 14 northeast on 12th May. One to two at eight locations in autumn but eight north over Swillington Ings on 26th August; nine southwest at Lemonroyd S.F. on 1st September and five at High Batts N.R. on 1st October.

The only record from VC 65 was of three at Nosterfield on 18th March.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The first of the year, a single bird at Temple Newsam, Leeds, on 23rd March, was well in advance of the next, four birds, at Wheldrake Ings on the 10th April. Thereafter, single birds at Spurn on the 11th and then on the 13th at Spurn; Kilnsea and Filey. Birds were widespread during the remainder of April in small numbers, usually less than ten but 13 at Flamborough on the 30th and, at the roost at Wheldrake Ings, 136 on the 29th. 100+ were reported at this same roost on 3rd May. Birds reported from many locations during this month, almost daily along the coast, with up to 30 at Spurn during the first two weeks; 23 at Flamborough on 6th with 22 on the 12th and 23 on the 13th. Inland, 17 were at Tophill Low Res. on the 6th/7th; a total of 24 flying east at Fairburn Ings on the 5th and ten at Winterset Res. on the 12th.

Occasionally reported during June then more numerous during July with numbers increasing towards the latter part of that month. On the 14th July, 69 flew south at Filey with 44 at Flamborough; 26 at Flamborough on the 15th whilst 34 were reported from Hornsea on the 23rd; 38 at Spurn on the 24th with 47 at Burstwick on the 28th and 46 at Flamborough on the 30th. 15 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on the 14th.

Away from the coast, the highest count was of nine flying west at Blacktoft on 15th July with one to eight birds being reported from a further 19 locations.

In August, 83 flew south at Filey on the 4th; 29 at Flamborough on the 11th with 33 at Spurn where 26 were also reported on the 18th when ten flew west at Sunk Island. 16 south at Hornsea on the 19th. Blacktoft reported 13 to the west on the 1st with nine on the 28th. 19 reported from Ainderby Steeple on the 1st with nine at Blackmoorfoot Res. on the 3rd. Numbers elsewhere in this month were less than six.

11 at Flamborough on 9th September was the only record during that month of more than five with few being reported after mid-month. Reported in October with three at Spurn on the 3rd; Broomhill Ings on the 5th and at both Spurn and Sunk Island on the 14th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

'Bred in normal numbers along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas'. Bred in small numbers at several locations along the edge of the Wolds and the Plain of York. No comments from VC 62 except that breeding took place at several sites in the three northern most reporting squares of the York Orn. Club.

Good numbers at the moorland breeding sites in VC 63 though the degree of success in the dry conditions is not known. In this VC continues on a small scale to breed at 'new' lowland sites. Breeding status normal in the upland areas of VC 64 but still spreading into some of the lowland areas. Assumed to be no change of status in VC 65.

The BOEE counts conducted during the latter months of the year gave 1409 on 23rd September; 1692 on 14th October; 1178 on 4th November and 1145 on the 9th December. Numbers reported from Sunk Island were again low with a peak count during the early months of 390 on 11th February and, in the latter months, 280 on 25th November. Peaked here in early autumn with 720 on 14th July and 1450 on the 11th August. Little passage of note recorded along the coast or the Humber but at Blacktoft, in VC 63, westerly passage along the Ouse was recorded between 11th June and 10th September involving a total of 1058 birds with maxima of 134 on 25th June and 121 on 11th July. Other counts in this VC were 42 at Scammonden on 16th March and 45 wintering (December) at Blaxton.

In VC 64 up to 100 were in the Denton/Otley area during January with 220 to 250 there on 4th February; up to 100 again in this area during November and December. Maxima during spring passage were 200 at Arthington and Eccup Res. on the 3rd and 8th March respectively. Few large counts during the autumn excepting 250 at Addingham on 18th July with 49 at Fairburn Ings on 8th July.

Over 1000 near Leyburn, in VC 65, during both winter periods whilst at Bolton-on-Swale, 305 were reported on 21st January with 318 on 18th February and 276 on 5th December. A melanistic bird was at Stapleton from the 8th to 16th June.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The two wintering birds at Blacktoft remained from 1989 until April. Two were also reported at Tudworth on 20th January.

A very poor spring reported from all locations with the exception of Blacktoft where up to three were present in April with four on the 14th; one to three during the first week of May whilst two were at Broomhill Ings on the 1st. These locations apart; single birds were occasionally reported from Wheldrake Ings; Filey; Kilnsea; Sunk Island; Tophill Low Res.; Swillington Ings and Staveley.

The autumn also was poor with only one to two birds occasionally at Spurn; Barmston; Flamborough; Filey; Hornsea Mere; Burstwick; Sunk Island; Cherry Cobb; Tophill Low Res.; Edderthorpe; Farnham; Gouthwaite Res.; Mickleton Ings; Swillington Ings; Bolton-on-Swale; Nosterfield and Lord's Bridge. Blacktoft, however, reported seven on 11th August; 2nd and 7th September whilst three were at Broomhill Ings on the 15th August with four on the 20th and four again there on the 2nd and 3rd September. Three at Fairburn Ings on 2nd July.

Two birds again remained at Blacktoft throughout the latter months and into 1991.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

The breeding status along the Lower Derwent valley/Pocklington Canal area appears to be unchanged with c120 pairs considered to have bred. 45 pairs were reported breeding in lowland sites in VC 63 but coverage of the moorland areas was far from complete thus no comments may be made. In VC 64, breeding numbers would indicate a slight downward trend in status.

Reported, on the Humber at Spurn, daily excepting some 20 days between 10th May and 15th June with monthly maxima of 950 on 9th January; 708 on 18th February; 378 on 7th March; 460 on 6th April then usually less than ten during May and June increasing rapidly in July to 1050 by the 25th then 1000 on 25th August; 1400+ on 18th September; 605 on 22nd October; 115 on 11th November after which only small numbers were reported, though a peak of 68 on 9th December. The BOEE counts during the latter months gave 3657 on 23rd September (2000 at Cherry Cobb); 3332 on 14th October (2000 at Skeffling); 3532 on 4th November (1500 at both Cherry Cobb and Skeffling) and 1992 on 9th December (evenly spread). Only light coastal passage reported with 45 south at Spurn on 15th August being the peak.

In VC 63 the peak counts at Blacktoft were 55 in April; 49 in July; 61 in August; 85 in September (on the 4th) and 61 in October. No significant counts were reported from any other location in this VC.

Wintering numbers in VC 64 were slightly higher than usual with 26 at Fairburn Ings on 11th February; 14 at Knostrop S.F. on 14th January and 13 at Swillington Ings on the 27th. Widespread spring passage with 44 at Gouthwaite Res. during late March; 22 being still present there on 15th June. Little signs of passage during autumn whilst winter maxima were 22 at Swillington Ings on 4th December and a similar count at Fairburn Ings on the 30th/31st.

26 at Leyburn on the 16th June was the highest count recorded in VC 65.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The bird reported at Fairburn Ings during the latter months of 1989 remained until spring whilst another at Blacktoft first recorded at the end of 1989 did not reappear this year.

One or two birds at four locations during late March then increasing in both numbers and locations in April with four at Kilnsea on the 30th and five at Fairburn Ings on the 26th. Widespread in May with peaks of 11 at Barmston (seven feeding with four high to the north) on the 6th; 14 at Spurn (11 to the east; three feeding) on the 2nd; ten at Kilnsea on the 7th and nine at Tophill Low Res. on the 6th. This last location reporting a record spring passage against Wheldrake Ings where a very poor spring passage was noted.

Few records from early June to mid July when the first returning birds were noted with one to three at several locations by the last week of July though five were at Spurn from the 23rd; up to six at Filey on the 27th and up to ten at Blacktoft. Reported from many locations in August, usually up to six though higher counts were as follows: Spurn, ten on the 18th; Sunk Island, 14 on the 18th; ten to 12 at Tophill Low Res. during the first two weeks; 11 at Flamborough on the 27th; eight at Blacktoft on 1st; nine at Broomhill Ings on the 20th; ten at Fairburn Ings on the 15th with 12 on the 29th/30th; eight at Bolton-on-Swale on the 30th whilst an extremely large gathering of 34 was at Haverfield Quarries on the 25th (this being the second largest party ever recorded in Yorkshire; 40 at Cherry Cobb on 2nd September 1969 being the highest).

Large numbers occasionally into early September with 30 at Haverfield on the 7th; ten at Tophill Low Res. on the 9th; ten at Swillington Ings on 18th with 12 on the 22nd and 15 at Fairburn Ings on the 1st. One to two at seven locations in October with three at Spurn on the 3rd and up to three at Fairburn until the 10th whilst in November, single birds were recorded from Flamborough on the 25th; frequently at Otley G.P. and Lindley Wood Res. until the 30th with one at Swillington Ings during the early part of the month. One at Fairburn Ings throughout November remained until late December whilst one was at Mickletown Ings on 18th November and probably this same bird frequented Swillington Ings from the 20th until 6th December.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Apparently increasing as a wintering bird with, during the early months, one or two at seven locations in VC 61; single birds at two locations in VC 62; one to four at six in VC 63; at two in VC 64 with six birds at Knostrop S.F. on 6th March, and at one location in VC 65.

By early April small numbers were reported from many locations becoming even more widespread in May though nowhere reporting more than four. Fewer during June and into July though by the middle of that latter month numbers were increasing; an early gathering however being 18 at Tophill Low Res. on 8th July. Peaks towards the end of this month being 25 at Tophill Low Res. on the 31st; 15 at Burstwick on the 29th; 17 at Blacktoft on the 31st and 21 at Broomhill Ings on the 28th. The largest counts reported during August were 16 at Burstwick on the 13th; ten at Pulfen Bog on the 3rd/4th; between 19 and 29 at Tophill Low Res. peaking at 31 on the 4th then decreasing from mid-month down to 15 by the end of the month; 18 at Blacktoft on the 1st with 22 at Broomhill Ings on the 14th and 20 on the 27th. Ten at Fairburn Ings on the 13th was the only count of double figures reported from VC 64 whilst nowhere in VC 65 had more than four birds. Numbers decreased into September with 15 at Tophill Low Res. on the 4th, falling to five on the 19th; seven at Pulfen Bog on the 1st with at least nine on the 2nd then no more than four.

As with the early months, birds were quite widespread during November and December; one to two birds being reported from 15 locations but three at Pulfen Bog on 1st December with up to five at Knostrop S.F. during that month.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Quite well distributed during spring with the first four birds at Filey Dams on the 3rd May; three being present the following day and one on most days until the 22nd. Two were reported from Fairburn Ings on the 5th, 6th and 7th (considered to be three birds involved) and two at Blacktoft on the 18th with three the following day. During May, single birds were recorded on one or more days at Brandesburton; Kilnsea; Spurn; Burstwick; Pulfen Bog; Sunk Island; Wheldrake Ings; Tophill Low Res.; Pugney's C.P.; Broadstones Res.; Thorpe Marsh; Broomhill Ings; Swillington Ings; Swillington Park and Hay-a-Park. Despite these widespread occurrences VC 65 reported a poor year with no spring records whilst the York Orn. Club commented 'the decline continues' in their area.

Possibly slightly fewer during autumn with singles during July, August and September from Flamborough; Burstwick; Tophill Low Res.; Pulfen Bog; Ruswarp; Riccall; Edderthorpe; Broomhill Ings; Mickletown Ings; Swillington Ings; Stapleton and Nosterfield. Three were at Filey Dams from 28th July to 1st August with two on the 20th August; two at Blacktoft on 2nd August with three on the 5th whilst Fairburn Ings had two on the 23rd September. At least two were at Spurn on the 3rd August and two again on the 11th. The last of the year were singles at Fairburn Ings and Mickletown Ings on 24th September.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hyperleucos*

Birds over-wintered in VC 64 at Eccup Res., being reported from January into March; at Fairburn Ings/Knostrop S.F., being seen at both locations in January, at Fairburn Ings until 11th February and again from 11th March; at Ripon Racecourse on 7th January and along the River Ure on 16th February; 1st and 3rd March (considered to involve at least three individuals). One present in VC 63 during February and March in the Rother Valley C.P.

The first migrant was reported from Hagg Bridge on 27th March thence Stream Dyke, Hornsea on 1st April with one the following day at Barden Bridge. Birds were widespread by the third week of the month with the peak passage occurring in early May though counts were low; eight at Fairburn Ings on the 6th being the largest gathering recorded.

Breeding was confirmed at some 15 moorland locations (reservoir sites) in VC 63 whilst VC 64 reported no change in status. No comment received from VC 65.

Autumn passage was also considered to be low; nine at Pulfen Bog being the largest gathering in VC 61. At least ten were at Redmires Res. on 22nd July with up to 20 in the Whiteholme area during July. 19 at Fairburn Ings on 16th July was by far the highest count

from VC 64 with nowhere else reporting more than six birds. Few October records but one at Pulfin Bog on 6th; four at Fairburn Ings on the 4th with two there from the 5th to 12th. One present in the Rother Valley C.P. until 21st December with one recorded sporadically at Fairburn Ings during November and December.

Addition to the 1989 Report: 19 pairs located at Grimwith Res.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

One in full summer plumage at Elland G.P. from 31st May to 2nd July (NCD:AZ). Displayed and associated with a male Common Sandpiper for about two weeks from 31st May.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Low counts at Flamborough during the early months with up to 50 in January and 25 during both February and March. 56 in April being the maximum during that month whilst 69 were present on the 6th May. Elsewhere along the coast; Filey also had low numbers with maxima in the early months of 40 in January; 60 in February and 21 in March; 133 at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 15th January. Monthly maxima at Spurn was 88 on 14th January; 104 on 5th February; 97 on 11th March; 100+ on 28th April with 90 on the 1st May. 90 were present on 25th July increasing to 205 on the 26th August; 400 on 11th November and then 80 on 7th December.

The BOEE counts of the latter months gave 595 on 23rd September (with 540+ between Patrington and Spurn); 209 on 14th October; 218 on 4th November and 325 on 9th December (197 at Sunk Island). During these latter months, Filey had up to 70 during September and October; 80 were at Jackson's Bay on 27th September whilst Flamborough recorded 60 on 23rd September with a similar count during October; 120 on 21st November; 172 on the 25th and 131 on the 21st.

Away from the coast; one at Pulfin Bog on 1st August; singles at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd May and the 5th to 7th June with three there on 8th August.

In VC 63, one or two at seven locations in early May with three north at Winterset Res. on the 13th and four there on the 16th. Pugney's C.P. had two from the 18th to the 22nd. One at Broomhill Ings on 10th June. One to two at five locations in July from the 14th but three at Blacktoft on 27th. Two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th August with four in the Rother Valley C.P. on 16th and two to the west there on the 18th. Single birds were at Winterset Res. on 17th September; Broomhill Ings on 25th September and at Blacktoft on the 20th October.

Spring records in VC 64 were two at Mickletown Ings on 30th April; one at Chelker Res. on 1st May; two at Fairburn Ings on 2nd May with seven on the 4th; one on the 9th; five flying to the west there on the 12th and three east the following day. Single birds at both Farnham and Swillington Ings on 3rd May; Swillington Ings on the 4th and 5th with two there on the 12th. Few in autumn with single birds at Fairburn Ings on 19th July; Swillington Ings on 25th September and 8th October.

Only two records from VC 65; both in spring; with single birds at Nosterfield on 13th May and at Scorton Quarry on the 21st.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One on the sea off Marine Drive, Scarborough on 13th October (JM).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One at Flamborough on 16th September (PAL:JCL:MN:PJW). One found in a weak condition on Filey Brigg on 23rd September dying later (P. Nash per SC:PJD). Two were on the sea close in at Spurn on 7th October whilst three flew north off Hornsea on 5th November (GRB).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One flew east at Sunk Island on 12th May then single birds reported from Flamborough on the 9th, 10th and 11th June.

In July; 24 birds off Flamborough being reported on 11 days of the month with 12 on the 21st; reported on two days from Barmston with two on the 10th and one on the 22nd; five birds at Hornsea during this month with two on the 17th and singles at Spurn on the 25th and 26th. Recorded at Flamborough on 20 days in August with only 53 birds involved peaking at seven on the 15th; six birds on five days at Barmston; two being seen on the 15th; four at Hornsea on the 20th with singles on a further nine days whilst at Spurn, four were present on the 3rd then single birds on three other days.

11 flew north off Scarborough on the 7th September with three north at Long Nab on the 20th and one at Sandsend the following day. 47 passed Flamborough during this month with birds being reported on 17 days; only one at Barmston, on the 27th but Hornsea had 49 birds in six days with 19 on the 7th and 26 on the 25th. Spurn had eight birds on seven days of this month.

75 birds recorded at Flamborough during October with peak counts of 13 on the 15th and 18 on the 21st; two at Barmston on both the 7th and 12th; eight on the 21st with two the following day. 24 passed Hornsea during this month on three days of this month with 21 on the 7th on which day a single bird flew north off Scarborough whilst Spurn recorded five birds on four days.

53 off Flamborough during November on 13 days with 15 on the 2nd; at Barmston, one on the 5th and four on the 24th; three at Hornsea on the 5th with one at Spurn on the 4th and one at Kilnsea on the 10th. One at Flamborough on 9th December.

Filey had birds occasionally between 21st July and 7th October though no numbers or dates were reported.

A very poor year particularly at Flamborough.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Single birds were reported in spring at Spurn on 30th April; Saltend on 6th May; Spurn, Flamborough and Filey on the 19th; Filey on the 25th; Sunk Island and Spurn on the 28th with singles in June at Spurn on the 2nd and Filey on the 9th and 14th.

Autumn passage along the coast noted from mid July; mainly small numbers during this month though 38 off Flamborough on the 21st and 29 on the 31st. Reported daily during August with peaks at Flamborough of 130 on the 6th; 264 on the 17th when 140 were recorded at Spurn; 140 on the 19th; 562 on the 20th on which date 40 were at Barmston; 159 at Filey; 185 at Hornsea; 340 at Holmpton and 155 at Spurn. During September; 115 passed Flamborough on the 7th on which date 105 flew south at Scarborough; 175 at Filey; 75 at Hornsea but very few birds reported from Spurn. 123 on the 8th at Flamborough with 104 on the 9th and 158 on the 20th. On this last date 32 flew north at Long Nab. 77 at Flamborough on the 21st whilst 40 were at Spurn on the 19th and 50 there on the 25th. Fewer birds during October with the peak day being the 7th when 71 were recorded at Filey; 81 at Flamborough; 28 at Barmston and 18 at Spurn. This was the last day of widespread passage but 24 flew north at Scarborough on the 18th; 31 at Flamborough on the 21st with 13 at Spurn the same day. 11 at Flamborough on 5th November with 12 the following day. The last bird of the year being at this location on 9th December.

Passage, predominantly westerly, was frequently noted at Sunk Island, usually involving one or two birds but three on 18th August; nine on 1st September; 14 on the 2nd and three on the 15th. 18 on the 21st October.

Few inland records this year with one north over Rossington on 11th May; one east at Blacktoft on 24th August; one at Redmires Res. on the 20th August and 20th September, both departing to the west.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

The only spring record was of an adult at Flamborough on 19th May (PAL *et al*).

A slightly better autumn than 1989 with two birds south at Long Nab on 25th September (RHA). An adult in Filey Bay on 27th August remaining until the following day (JH *et al*) when a second bird flew south (PJD *et al*).

A total of 66 birds reported from Flamborough as follows: in July; an immature on 17th (PAL); adult on 21st (MN). In August; adult on 1st (JCL); juvenile on 14th (JCL:PAL);

two adults 16th (PAL); adult 18th (JCL:PAL:MN); immature 19th (JCL:PAL); two adults 20th (PAL); adult 22nd (JCL:PAL); two adults 26th (DGH:MN:PJW). In September; adult on 1st (MN:PJW); juvenile 7th (PAL); four juveniles 8th (PAL *et al*); adult and four juveniles 13th (PAL:JMP); three juveniles 13th (JCL:PAL:PJW); two adults and two juveniles 15th (JCL:PAL:PJW); adult and seven juveniles 20th (PAL:MN:PJW); two juveniles and one unaged 21st (JCL:PAL); immature 23rd (MN); adult and juvenile 25th; three juveniles 26th (PAL); four adults and one juvenile 27th (JCL:PAL). In October; juvenile and immature on 6th (JCL:MN); adult and four juveniles 7th (JCL:PAL:SR:GAS); adult and two juveniles 8th (PAL:SR); adult 15th and juvenile 21st (MN).

At Barmston; an adult on 25th August; juvenile on 10th, 11th and 15th September with an immature on 3rd November (PP).

15 birds reported from Hornsea; in August; immatures on 8th and 20th; adults on 21st, 22nd, 26th, 28th and 29th. In September; immature on the 5th; adult on the 7th; adult, two second year birds and one first year bird on the 25th; adult on the 20th. Single adult on 7th October (GRB). Two adults and two juveniles at Holmpton on 20th August (SLJ) whilst five birds were reported from Spurn (all unaged); north on the 18th; south on the 28th August; one east on 28th September; north on the 7th October and northeast on the 21st.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Reported during the winter at Flamborough with two on 28th January; one there on 3rd February; two on the 10th then one on the 4th March. One at Filey on 12th February.

One at Filey on 18th April whilst at Flamborough two were reported on the 20th with eight on the 21st and nine the following day. Singles there on 19th and 21st May; 12th and 23rd June.

Autumn passage was recorded from early July with 111 birds during that month at Flamborough; maxima being 20 on the 21st and 26th; three off Hornsea on 23rd. 310 passed Flamborough during August with 22 on the 6th; 46 on the 17th and 20th and 25 on the 18th. Up to four at Spurn regularly during this month with birds occasionally at Barmston; Hornsea; Filey and Scarborough. In September, 291 off Flamborough with 29 on the 7th; 39 on the 8th; 52 on the 20th; 58 on 21st and 23 on the 22nd. 59 passed Hornsea on the 7th; ten at Spurn on the 15th with up to 30 there during the last week of the month. 14 flew north at Long Nab on the 25th. Small counts during October being recorded only on 18 days at Flamborough with peaks of 36 on the 7th and 18 on the 21st. Also on the 7th, five at Barmston; 35 at Filey and 29 north at Hornsea with five at Spurn on the 21st. Few in November with only 20 birds reported from Flamborough; seven at Hornsea on the 7th and then up to three occasionally there and at Barmston. Six at Flamborough on 9th December with one on the 14th and 22nd and what was possibly the same bird also at Filey on the 22nd.

Occasionally reported along the Humber at Sunk Island with one on the 22nd September; two on the 29th; singles on the 20th and 21st October and 3rd November.

One flew west along the River Ouse at Blacktoft on 3rd October.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Recorded in VC 61, mainly from the coast or the estuary and invariably single birds with the exception of two (1st winter and adult) at Barmston on 14th September with three (1st winter; 2nd winter and adult) there on the 6th October. A 1st winter bird also present there on 3rd November with 2nd winter birds on 4th/5th January; 5th February; 2nd and 4th March. An adult at Spurn in summer plumage on 15th April; 1st winter bird at Dimlington on 9th November. An adult south at Hornsea on 26th August; one north on 25th September and then almost daily from 8th November to the end of the year. 1st winter birds were reported from Hornsea Mere on 21st, 24th, 29th and 30th September. A 2nd year bird at Filey on 19th January and 30th July with a juvenile on 7th September and 1st winter on 21st October and 26th December. Recorded at Flamborough on 15th April; 10th May; 8th June; 8th and 26th October and 23rd November. Adults at Hull on 29th/30th August and 26th October with one at Sunk Island on 22nd September. The only records



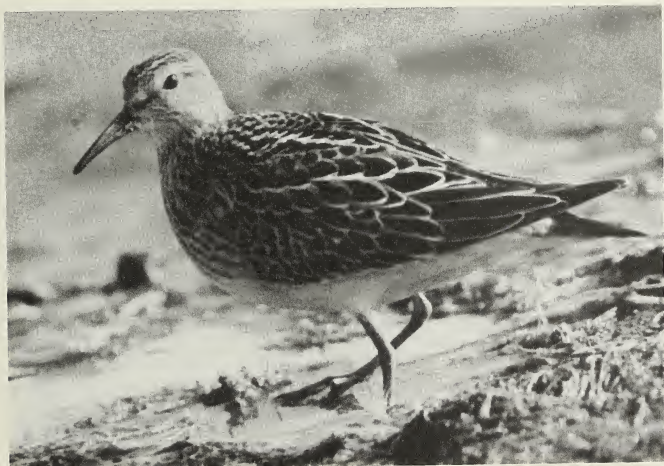
Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, Kilnsea/Spurn, 30th September and 1st October. (R. C. Hart)



Little Bunting, *Emberiza pusilla*, Filey, 28th to 29th October. (Ian Newton)



Isabelline Wheatear, *Oenanthe isabellina*, Kilnsea, 21st to 23rd October. (C. Bradshaw)



Pectoral Sandpiper, *Calidris melanotos*, Hornsea Mere, 9th to 16th September.
(R. C. Hart)



Woodchat Shrike, *Lanius senator*, Filey Country Park, 27th August. (I. Richardson)



Barn Owl, dark-breasted race, *Tyto alba guttata*, Spurn, 23rd to 24th October.
(SBO/Colin Slator)



Storm Petrel, *Hydrobates pelagicus*, Filey, July. (P. J. Dunn)

away from the coast in this VC were an adult at Tophill Low Res. on 17th March with a 2nd winter bird there on the 26th.

Few in VC 62 with one at Scarborough on 14th January; Scalby Mills on 15th February (1st winter). A 2nd year bird at Scarborough on 4th April; 1st winter there on 23rd October with an unaged bird on 16th November. One at Saltwick Nab on 25th February with an adult on 1st October.

Inland in VC 63; a 1st winter at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 5th January to 16th March; 2nd winter bird regularly to the 11th February; 2nd winters at Broomhill Flash on 9th February and at Treton Dyke on 12th March. Adult over Lindley Moor on 24th July; adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 1st December with a 1st winter bird there on 29th and 30th.

Recorded at four locations in VC 64; Eccup Res. with an adult present on 18 days in January; 17 in February and then daily from 1st March to the 13th. A second adult was present on 18th January with a 2nd winter bird there on 17th February. An adult on 5th, 10th, 18th, 25th November and 1st December with a 1st winter individual on 19th December. Fairburn Ings had 1st winter birds on 17th/18th February; 2nd to 4th March; 1st, 15th and 23rd December; 2nd winter bird on 25th November with an adult on 2nd September. Knotford Nook recorded 1st winter birds on 11th January; 29th September; 1st October; 2nd November and 1st December with an adult on 2nd/3rd November whilst an adult was present at Swillington Ings on 9th February.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Few records during the winter months with single birds at Filey on one day in January and three days in February; one at Whitby on 4th February; three at Flamborough on 7th January; two there on the 27th with two again on the 3rd and 4th February. Single birds were recorded inland at Winterset Res. on 26th February and at Worsbrough Res. on the 27th.

The first influx of birds came in early May with seven at Ingbirchworth Res. on the 3rd May with others arriving to reach 13 by the evening. Up to ten visited Tophill Low Res. almost daily from the 20th May to 22nd June (all 1st summer birds). Became more widespread in July with 14 at Hornsea Mere on the 7th then 25 there on the 9th but only 21 by the end of the month. Increased during August with 74 on the 4th; 82 on the 10th; 184 on the 13th; 195 on 14th; 276 on 18th with 281 as the peak count on the 30th thereafter decreasing to 35 by 24th September. Numbers on the sea at Hornsea were lower with 83 on the 28th July and 79 on 10th August. Coastal passage reported at Flamborough with 76 on 8th September and 97 on the 9th; 54 on 13th; 153 on the 14th then 55 the following day. This passage was also noted at Hornsea with higher counts of north on the 7th; 704 north on the 25th and 469 on the 26th. In October; 73 north at Hornsea on the 7th with, at Flamborough, 103 on the 14th; 61 on the 26th and 294 on the 27th when 147 flew south at Filey. 34 east at Spurn on 16th was the peak recorded there. 139 north at Holmpton on 3rd October. Numbers decreased into November with 17 on the 5th at Flamborough and 13 there on 25th when nine flew south at Filey.

Only small numbers along the coast in VC 62 with maxima reported being 15 flying north off Scarborough on 7th September and 16 north there on 18th October.

Inland, in VC 63, three flew southwest over Pugney's C.P. on 3rd and two at Broomhill Ings on 26th April; two at Winterset Res. on 8th September and two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th October. Single birds reported on one or more occasions from Blacktoft; Elland G.P.; Fly Flatts Res.; Midhope Res.; Wentworth; Leeshaw Res. and Ardsley Res.

In VC 64; a second winter bird was at Eccup Res. on 11th and 20th March. Spring passage was recorded at several locations with one at Knotford Nook on 20th April; two at Swillington Ings on 3rd/4th May. The bulk of the records coming from Fairburn Ings with four on 12th April and birds being reported on 15 days to the 19th May; maxima being eight on 28th; six on the 29th and 12 on 30th April; 13 present on 3rd May with five the following day.

The first of the autumn was at Swillington Ings on 2nd July thereafter one or two birds were recorded at Fairburn Ings; Eccup Res.; Swillington Park/Ings and Knotford Nook with the last at Knotford Nook on the 24th September.

Bolton-on-Swale had an excellent year with seven on 2nd May then a juvenile on 19th and 21st August with two on the 23rd (only five birds had been recorded at this location in the past 30 years). Single 1st summer birds at Nosterfield on 5th May.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

An adult south at Barmston on 12th August (PP) with an adult at Flamborough (PAL) and a juvenile south at Hornsea on the 22nd (GRB). Two juveniles at Flamborough on 8th September (JCL:PAL:MN). A juvenile at Hornsea Mere on the 10th (TDC) being the first for that location; a juvenile south at Easington with perhaps the same individual north at Spurn on the 15th (SLJ) whilst a similarly plumaged bird was reported both at Filey and Flamborough on the 16th (DJS:PMS:HJW:JCL:PAL:MN:PJW). Adult north at Long Nab on the 20th (RHA) with juveniles at Filey on the 22nd (JWC:WH) and at Flamborough on the 25th (PAL) and 26th (NWA) whilst on this latter date an adult was in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough (RHA). Considered to have been a poor year at Flamborough.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

No breeding information received from the Lower Derwent valley in VC 61. In VC 63, 140 pairs at Old Denaby having good success; less than ten pairs at Potteric Carr; three pairs at Methley whilst ten young were reported at one location on Thorne Moors. Colonies counted in VC 64 were; Angram Res. with 130 nests; Knostrop S.F., 35 nests; Mickletown Ings, 15 nests; Fairburn Ings, 250 nests and Upper Barden Res. with 2913 nests. 35 nests at Nosterfield in VC 65 with small numbers breeding at Roundhill Res. Ten adults on Yearsley Moor (VC 62) on 10th July but no further details.

In VC 61; 8000 were at Wheldrake Ings on 31st January with 3500 the following day; 5500 on 29th December and 7000 on the 31st. 4000 at Sunk Island on 28th January with 6000 on 11th August and up to 11,000 during September. Counts at Tophill Low Res. gave monthly maxima of 4000 in January; 7000 in October; 3500 in November and 6000 during December. 4600 at Flamborough on 8th August. The largest gathering reported from VC 62 being 2000+ at Scalby Mills on 15th February.

Large concentrations in VC 63 were 20,000 to the east at Blacktoft on 18th September; 11,000 at Winterset Res. on 10th January with 10,500 there on 21st November. 7500 at Pugney's C.P. on 22nd February and 4000 on 19th November; 4000 at Broomhill Ings on 26th December and up to 4000 at Womersley Tip during both winters. Eccup Res., in VC 64, had 16,000 on 3rd January declining to 10,000 by 22nd February with 10,000 in late October increasing to 14,000 in November remaining constant to the end of the year. 5000 at Swillington Ings on 15th December.

Up to 12,000 at Bolton-on-Swale during January with 8500 in December and 5000 at Nosterfield on 24th October; the only locations in VC 65 to report large numbers.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

A single pair bred at Angram Res. High numbers were reported from Flamborough in January with 2300 on the 27th and 6127 the following day, this being a record count for this location. Good numbers here again in late December with 3100 on the 22nd and 4200 on the 30th. Numbers at Tophill Low Res. were generally lower than usual with monthly maxima of 5000 in January; no February counts; 7000 in March; 5000 in both October and November with 9500 in December. 1000 at Wheldrake Ings on 31st January. No other location in this VC reporting more than 1000.

In VC 62; 1000 were reported from Castle Howard on 15th August whilst the only other gathering of note was 500 at Scalby Mills on 15th February.

Numbers would also appear to be lower in VC 63 than in recent years though under-reporting cannot be discounted. 1000 roosting at Winterset Res. in January and December being the only counts of note.

Eccup Res. was the main location for this species in VC 64 with 5000 on 13th January; 4000 on 15th February; 2500 on 7th March; 1100 on 7th April; 1500 on 1st September with 3000 by the 23rd then up to 5000 during November and December. The next largest gathering in this VC being 600 at Swinsty Res. in December.

Little coastal movement reported with 669 south at Spurn on 15th April as the highest count.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

300 pairs reported breeding at Upper Barden Res.

As usual only small numbers reported from VC 61 with up to 100 at Spurn in mid September; 70 on 4th August and 35 on 5th July. 60 at Haverfield Quarries on 10th August with no other location in this VC recording more than 30 birds. This paucity exists along the whole coast and the eastern parts of the county. Further west, into VC 63, numbers increase with maxima at roosts of 500 at Winterset Res. on 20th June; 871 on 3rd July increasing to 1700 on the 12th July then down to 400 by 22nd October. Blackmoorfoot Res. had 337 on 31st July with 436 on 30th October; Pugney's C.P.; 300 on 12th October and Thornton Moor Res. 1015 on 2nd August.

In VC 64; 200 reported at Fairburn Ings on 25th May; 110 at Mickletown Ings on 15th June with Newsam Green Tip holding 120 on 1st April increasing to 200 by the 25th May. Far higher numbers in autumn with 320 at Newsam Green Tip on 5th August; 215 at Eccup Res. on 23rd September; 400+ at Swillington Ings during mid-October and 250 at Fairburn Ings on 14th September. 908 at Nosterfield, in VC 65, on 21st September whilst Bolton-on-Swale reported lighter than usual autumn passage with maximum of 760 on 19th August.

Many birds were reported as being attributable to the race *L.f.intermedius*, usually in small numbers though 12 were recorded at Broomhill Ings on 21st and 27th July with 21 on the 25th; 11 there on 2nd August. Six at Eccup Res. on 19th February with 11 on the 6th March; up to seven present from 19th August to mid-October. 12 at Farnham on 14th March with one to four present at a further ten locations.

Birds considered to be attributable to the race *L.f.fuscus* were far scarcer with two at Tophill Low Res. on 27th September otherwise only single birds, at, again, Tophill Low Res.; Newsam Green Tip and at four locations in VC 63 during the period January to April and at two in November/December.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

The breeding numbers at Bampton RSPB Reserve appear to be unchanged at 950 pairs; no other breeding records received.

Maxima reported at Flamborough were 2500 on 7th January; 1200 on 9th and 20th September with a similar count on 6th October. Only small numbers reported from the remainder of VC 61 with 650 at Spurn on 15th March; 600 flying west at Sunk Island on 4th February and 600 at Tophill Low Res. in January. Maxima in VC 63 were 1900 at Broomhead Res. on 24th January; 1100 there on 26th December; 3500 at Winterset Res. on both 7th January and 30th December whilst 1500 were reported from Blacktoft on 14th October and 1000 at Broomhill Ings on 27th January. In VC 64; 1000+ at Swinsty Res. on 29th December; 1000+ at Newsam Green Tip on 4th March with 2000+ there on the 15th December. 1100 at Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, on 6th January.

Birds attributed to one of the 'yellow-legged' races, *L.a. cachinnans* or *L.a. michahellis* were reported from Blackmoorfoot Res.; Broomhill Ings and Winterset Res., all single birds whilst two were at Scorton Quarry on 10th and 19th August.

Large, dark-backed, northern type birds were reported frequently from Flamborough with a total of 565 during January including a record count of 223 on the 6th; 44 there in February with six in September; 24 during October with 35 in November and 53 in December. A very dark mantled yellow-legged bird of a northern type was at Sunk Island on 14th October.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

Few records in the eastern part of the county with adults at Scarborough on four days in January and two in March whilst 2nd year birds were recorded on 19th January and 22nd February. In VC 61; one at Flamborough on 7th January with two there on the 27th. One on 18th February and 1st/2nd December. At Filey; a 1st winter bird on 16th January; 2nd

winter on the 20th; adult and 3rd winter on 26th being joined the following day by a 1st winter bird with only the 3rd winter individual being present on the 28th. 1st winter bird at Hornsea on 17th February with a 2nd winter bird there on 7th December. One, possibly 3rd summer, at Burstwick G.P. from the 16th to 18th May with what was considered to be a 2nd summer bird south at Spurn on the 28th. An adult at Sunk Island on 4th February with a 2nd year bird south at Spurn on 31st December.

In VC 63, during January, 1st winter birds were at Blackmoorfoot Res. from 5th to 7th and again on the 9th; at Pugney's C.P. on 16th/17th and at Ardsley Res. on the 17th. In February, at Winterset Res. on 3rd/4th and from 9th to 17th; at Pugney's C.P. on 21st/22nd; Broomhill Ings on 3rd; 8th and 9th. One at Winterset Res. on 10th March. 2nd winter birds present in January at Winterset Res. to the 6th; at Broomhill Ings on the 1st and 6th; Stairfoot Tip on 1st; 6th/7th; Monkton Tip on 4th/5th whilst in February similarly aged birds were recorded from Stairfoot Tip on the 3rd and 8th; Ingbirchworth on 22nd/23rd. A bird at Broomhill Ings on 7th was either 1st or 2nd winter. In March; 2nd winter birds at Monkton Tip on 1st; Winterset Res. on 1st; Stairfoot Tip on the 2nd; Broomhill Ings on the 9th and Royd Moor Res. on the 26th whilst in April at Winterset Res. on the 3rd; and 7th and at Broomhill Ings on the 5th; 7th/8th and the 16th. A 2nd winter bird was reported at Stairfoot Tip on 2nd March. Adults at Ardsley Res. on 13th and 27th January; 9th February; 25th November (the pale individual from Eccup Res.) 15th and 23rd December. The only other record from this VC during the latter months was a 1st winter bird at Low Moor Tip on 10th December.

In VC 64; birds were frequently recorded at Newsam Green Tip in Leeds, many of them roosting at Swillington Ings. 1st winters noted on 17 days during January; three in February; ten in March and one in December; 2nd winters on 1st January; 3rd to 15th April and 30th December. A 3rd winter individual on 4th March and an adult from 9th to 23rd February and 4th to 27th March. It is considered that at least eight individuals were involved. The usual pale adult was at Eccup Res. on ten January days; eight in February and ten in March and then again on 20th November. This adult was also seen regularly during the periods January to 30th March and 29th November to the year's end at Knotford Nook; Esholt S.W. and Swinsty Res. Single 1st winter birds reported from Fairburn Ings on 20th January and Farnham on 6th March.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Along the coast, reported regularly during both winters at Spurn; Hornsea; Barmston; Flamborough; Filey; Scarborough and Whitby. Generally reported singly but two at Whitby on 30th January and 4th February; four at Flamborough on 14th and 25th January with three there on the 7th and two on the 6th; 20th and 27th. Two again on 12th February with two also on 9th December. Away from the coast, single birds at Burton Riggs G.P. on 24th March; at Tophill Low Res. on 10th March and Hornsea Mere on 26th September and 12th December.

Less frequent in VC 63 than the preceding species with an adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th March then single 1st winter birds at Low Wincobank on 1st January; Low Tip Moor; 13th/14th January; Pugney's C.P. 18th January; Higham on 28th February; Winterset Res. on 14th December and at Broomhead Res. on 30th/31st.

Newsam Green Tip, in VC 64, had two adults and three 1st winter birds between 2nd and 5th January; a 1st winter individual on the 7th March with a different bird on the 10th/11th. An adult at Eccup Res. on the 4th (present at Newsam Green on the previous day); single 1st winter bird on 11th March. Adult at Farnham on 5th January; 1st summer at Gouthwaite Res. on 15th April; adult at Mickletown Ings on 20th February and a 2nd winter bird on 9th March with finally an adult at Swinsty Res. on 22nd December.

A Glaucous x Herring Gull type hybrid was reported from Newsam Green Tip on 10th/11th March.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Numbers along the coast low with maxima at Spurn of 140 on 30th August; 177 on 8th September and 125 on 28th October; no other month having more than 70 birds. 550 at

Flamborough on 6th January; 120 on 28th July then peaks of 450 on 20th September and 200 on 12th November. 100 regularly at Pulfin Bog from late September to November. Sunk Island reported 90 on 10th January with less than 100 until 25th August when 250 were present; 380 on 29th September; 300 on 6th October with 100 on 4th November and 120 on 16th December. Maxima at Tophill Low Res. were 600 in January; 120 in March; 400 in November and 420 in December. 300 at Wheldrake Ings on 31st January; 72 present on 17th December increasing to 400 by the year's end.

In VC 63, roost numbers excepting at Winterset Res. were either down or remain down on previous years. At Winterset maxima were 700 from 7th to 26th January with 569 on 9th December and 1100 on the 30th. Elsewhere, 350 at Broomhill Ings on 1st January; 500 moving north there on 30th; 200 at Pugney's C.P. on 21st December; 206 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th November and 350 at Blacktoft on 18th September.

The only counts of 100+ in VC 63 came from three closely adjacent locations in the Aire valley; Fairburn Ings with 250 in January; 350 on 23rd August; 400 in October and 450 in November; Swillington Ings with 900+ on 20th January; 600+ on 4th March; 500+ in November and 1000+ on 15th December and at Mickletown Ings with 135 on 25th November and 170 on 9th December.

390 at Bolton-on-Swale, in VC 65, on 6th January.

Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*

Adult to the north at Flamborough on 4th July (PAL); still under consideration by BBRC.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Breeding numbers on Bempton Cliffs (RSPB Reserve) were estimated at 75,000 pairs indicating that the colony is stable. 1511 nests counted on the Castle Hill at Scarborough show an increase from 1322 last year. No other breeding details received.

High numbers frequently reported at Flamborough with the first heavy passage on 17th March when 46,500 were recorded; 72,500 on 21st April with 48,000 the following day; 27,400 on 28th and 29,000 on the 29th. 39,550 on 12th May. Scarce in late autumn and winter with 264 on 12th December as maximum. High counts also reported from Filey with 1800 per hour on 21st April. These movements were also reflected to a lesser degree at Hornsea and Spurn. Quite frequent along the Humber at Sunk Island with 15 on 28th April; nine on 13th May after 262 the previous day.

Inland, in VC 63, 16 at Ardsley Res. on 27th February; three at Winterset Res. on 28th February; three at Blacktoft on 6th May with seven there on the 19th; three at Thornton Moor Res. on 11th and four on the same day at Blackmoorfoot Res. All other records from this VC involved single birds being reported at the Rother Valley C.P.; Pugney's C.P.; Broadstones Res.; Denaby Ings; Sprotbrough Flash; Broomhill Ings; Thrybergh Res. and Ardsley Res.

In VC 64, spring passage was reported at Gouthwaite Res. with singles on 2nd and 3rd February then at nine locations until the last two at Fairburn Ings on 14th May; one to two birds in each instance excepting six at Fairburn Ings on 11th May. One at Eccup Res. on 26th June then, in autumn, two at Swillington Ings on 25th September. Single birds during gales in early December at Farnham on the 1st; Farnham; Gouthwaite Res. and Swillington Ings on the 8th.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochilidon nilotica*

Single adult to the north at Flamborough on 6th July (JCL:PAL). Under consideration by the BBRC.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Single adults at Flamborough on 6th May (JCL) and 14th May (PAL:BKH). Both under consideration by the BBRC.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

The first of the year was at Filey on 24th February (SC *et al*); the second earliest record ever (10th January 1982 at Filey – over-wintered?). Reported in March with two at Flamborough on the 18th; two there on the 24th when four were at Filey; three at Spurn on the 29th then 11 at Flamborough on 31st when one was at Barmston. By mid-April birds were widespread along the coast with 40 at Flamborough on the 13th; numbers increased towards the end of the month with 103 passing this same location on the 28th and 92 the following day. 27 at Barmston on 23rd with 14 at Hornsea on the 26th and up to ten at Spurn during the last week of the month.

Inland, occasionally reported during this month with one at Blacktoft on the 13th; one at Fairburn Ings on the 18th; one at Bolton-on-Swale on the 22nd; Fairburn Ings on the 28th with two there on the 30th which were also reported from Swillington Ings the same day.

Regular along the coast during May; maxima being 60 at Flamborough on the 6th and 54 at Spurn on the 15th. 142 at Spurn on the 2nd June then smaller numbers during the remainder of the month whilst numbers at Flamborough increased towards the end of the month with 173 on the 30th. Increased during July with up to 100 at both Filey and Spurn whilst Flamborough had five days with over 250 birds recorded; the maximum being 444 on the 26th. The main passage occurred in August with Spurn having peaks of 1281 on 13th and 935 on the 27th; Hornsea 496 on the 26th and 337 on 27th; Barmston 450 on the 6th with 422 on the 13th; Flamborough 734 on the 6th; 556 on 22nd and 580 on 29th whilst Filey recorded 363 on the 13th and 174 on the 12th. Lesser numbers in September with up to 200 at Filey on the 3rd; 260 at Flamborough on the 8th and a very late peak of 405 on the 26th; 201 at Hornsea on 1st and 174 on 3rd when 500 were off Spurn. Only small numbers into October when Spurn reported 26 on the 5th with nine at Hornsea on the 6th; 24 at Flamborough on the 4th then late birds at Flamborough on the 27th; Spurn on 28th; Flamborough on 3rd and 10th November.

Westerly passage along the Humber frequently noted from Sunk Island with 12 on 16th June; 20 on 18th August; 42 on the 29th; 412 on 1st September and 47 the following day.

Small numbers inland during autumn with, in VC 63, two at Winterset Res. on 21st August; three on the 25th and five from midday on the 20th September thought to be birds from Worsbrough Res. where four departed before midday on that same day. Three at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 13th July. In VC 64 the only record was of two at Swillington Ings on 20th September.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Single birds at Flamborough on 30th June; 1st and 5th July; at Spurn on 9th then, in August, an adult at Barmston on the 12th; adult and juvenile at Scalby Mills on 13th; adult at Hornsea and one of unspecified age at Spurn on the 14th. Adult south at Hornsea on 15th; one at Spurn the same day; one at Flamborough on 17th and 20th; Hornsea on 22nd (adult) and 23rd (juvenile); Spurn on 26th; adult at Filey on 28th; Hornsea on 27th; Flamborough on 29th and finally Filey on 1st September.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The first of the year were nine at Spurn and six at Broomhill Ings on 23rd April with two at Knotford Nook on the 26th and singles at Sunk Island and Flamborough on the 29th. Passage noted in VC 63 during early May; particularly on the 2nd when 80 flew east at Blacktoft with ten to 15 reported from Treeton Dyke; Worsbrough Res.; Ingbirchworth Res.; Pugney's C.P.; Winterset Res. and Potteric Carr whilst one to eight birds were reported from a further ten locations. 16 at Fairburn Ings, VC 64, on the 2nd when four were reported from Tophill Low Res., VC 61, on that day with seven there on the 3rd; eight at Naburn S.W., VC 62, on both 2nd and 3rd. Numbers along the coast were generally low during spring.

Bred inland with single pairs at Pugney's C.P. (three young) and Worsbrough Res. (one young); three pairs at Fairburn Ings with two young; four pairs at Swillington Ings with five young and one pair at Farnham with three young.

Autumn passage normal with peaks at Flamborough of 2675 on 18th August; 825 on the 30th and 1001 the following day. Barmston recorded 945 on the 21st and 1165 on 30th whilst at Hornsea, 599 were reported on the 18th; 691 on 20th; 792 on 21st and 628 on the 27th. Good passage during the first days of September when 2155 passed Flamborough on the 1st with 1135 the following day; 559 at Hornsea on the 1st; 359 there on 2nd with 325 on 5th and 225 at Flamborough on the 8th.

Inland, passage was recorded at Pugney's C.P. with 11 on the 22nd July when 12 were at Fairburn Ings; ten being present at this latter location on both 13th July and 10th August. 16 at Blacktoft on 22nd August.

The last birds were reported from Spurn on 13th October; Filey on the 14th and at Tophill Low Res. on the 21st.

Many locations, particularly along the coast, did not distinguish between this species and Arctic Tern owing to distance, merely reporting '*commics*'. Of these 1768 were at Spurn on 13th August; 900 on the 16th with 1279 on the 27th; and at Sunk Island 155 east on 17th June and 88 on 26th August.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

First were 18 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd April when four were at Blacktoft and two in the Rother Valley C.P. The first at Spurn was on the 24th and at Flamborough on the 28th.

As with the previous species, an influx during early May when, on the 2nd, 21 were reported at Winterset Res., in VC 63, nine at Thrybergh Res. and five at Broomhill Ings whilst in VC 64, 41 at Fairburn Ings; 40 at Knotford Nook with 13 at Swillington Ings. Fairburn Ings had up to eight until the 20th with higher counts of 12 on the 3rd; 15 on 8th; 19 on the 11th and 11 on the 13th and 19th. 13 at Swillington Ings on the 11th when 14 were at Winterset Res.

Numbers along the coast were low with 79 at Flamborough on 21st July and 115 the following day. In August, 180 on 18th at Flamborough; 199 on 21st at Barmston with 100 on 28th and 121 on 30th; 35 at Hornsea on 21st.

Late birds were at Fairburn Ings on 19th October; Barmston on 22nd; Spurn on the 25th and Flamborough on 1st and 5th November.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*

One flew north at Scarborough on 18th October – the first record for Yorkshire (RHA).

Little Tern *Sterna albigrons*

The breeding colony at Easington Lagoons fared better than last year with 31 pairs nesting of which 19 were successful in rearing 29 young. The colony at Spurn regrettably had a miserable year; 45 birds were present in May but only five nested; four birds inside the electric fence. On 15th June a fox jumped this fence taking three clutches; the fence was re-aligned to include the fifth nest with both clutches then hatching. One brood was killed by the parents within 48 hours of hatching; the second being taken by a fox after two weeks.

The first of the year was recorded at Easington on 29th April with at least two at Spurn on 2nd May and one along the Humber at Sunk Island on the 6th. The maxima at the two breeding locations were 45 at Spurn during May and 67 at Easington (no date).

Elsewhere along the coast, small numbers were occasionally recorded with three at Filey on 18th May; three at Barmston on 20th May and 6th August when three were also reported from Flamborough. Three flew east at Sunk Island on 17th June whilst the only record in this VC from inland was of three at Tophill Low Res. on 15th June.

In VC 63; two at Blacktoft on each of the 15th May; 3rd June and 1st August whilst singles were at Pugney's C.P. on 15th May and Worsbrough Res. on 23rd September. A poor year in VC 64 with one at Swillington Ings on 12th May; Fairburn Ings the following day and one at Knotford Nook on the 26th September. Only one record in VC 65, at Semerwater on 18th May. The bird at Knotford Nook was the last of the year.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

The first of a memorable spring were 18 at Wheldrake Ings on 30th April being present the following day when, in VC 61, three were at Spurn; in VC 63, 20 at Ingbirchworth Res.; five at Scout Dyke Res.; eight at both the Rother Valley C.P. and Potteric Carr; six at Elsecar; two at Broomhill Ings and one at Leeshaw Res. In VC 64; six at Staveley and one at Knotford Nook whilst 15 were at Semerwater in VC 65.

A massive movement, totalling well over 1000 birds, occurred on 2nd May with the following being reported:

VC 61: Hornsea Mere 127; Spurn 20 and Tophill Low Res. 15.

VC 62: Strensall Common 18.

VC 63: Blacktoft 152; Ingbirchworth Res. 83; Southfield Res. 80; Pugney's C.P. 76; Leeshaw Res. 36; Ardsley Res. 28; Winterset Res. 27; Treeton Dyke 20; Broadstones Res. 16; Blackmoorfoot Res. 12; Rother Valley C.P. 11; Bretton Park five; Potteric Carr five; Old Denaby five; Thorpe Marsh three; Denaby Ings, Thrybergh Res., Broomhill Ings and Edderthorpe, two each and Sprotbrough Flash; Denholme and Newmillerdam one each.

VC 64: Chelker Res. 54; Gouthwaite Res. 54; Swillington Ings 42; Harewood Park 40; Fairburn Ings 31; Hay-a-Park 21; Farnham 20; Knotford Nook 27; Scar House Res. 18; Mickleton Ings 11 with many locations (unspecified) reporting less than ten birds.

VC 65: Bolton-on-Swale 56; Semerwater 50; Thorton Steward Res. 16; Nosterfield eight and Stapleton seven.

On the 3rd, reported from fewer locations though some places reported their highest counts of the spring:

VC 61: Spurn 163; Saltend 89; Hornsea Mere 21; Wheldrake Ings five and Tophill Low Res. three.

VC 62: Castle Howard eight.

VC 63: Blacktoft 96; Ingbirchworth Res. 15; Rother Valley C.P. seven; Broomhill Ings, six; Broadstones Res. six; Blackmoorfoot Res. four; Winterset Res. four; Pugney's C.P. three.

VC 64: Fairburn Ings 101; Gouthwaite Res. 22; Swillington Ings 12; Staveley five; Chelker Res. four and Knotford Nook one.

Most had passed through by the 4th though 23 were still at Fairburn Ings with eight at Winterset Res.; seven at Blacktoft; five at Wheldrake Ings; two each at Spurn and Ingbirchworth Res. and one each at Catcliffe Flash; Tophill Low Res.; Bretton Park and Hay-a-Park. Four were at Fairburn Ings on the 5th with single birds at Boroughbridge; Bretton Park and Ingbirchworth Res.

These numbers were by far the highest ever reported in spring in the county with the total at Spurn on the 3rd only being eclipsed by the 165 at that same location in September 1965.

Autumn was, by comparison, an anti-climax though Flamborough recorded 11 on 20th August then nine on 1st September; one the following day and 34 on the 3rd (a record count for that location) with ten there on the 4th. Seven at Spurn on 30th August whilst eight flew west at Sunk Island on 12th August. Very few inland with two at Fairburn Ings on 28th August then two more on 13th October which were also recorded at nearby Swillington Ings. One at Fairburn Ings on the 16th; one at Hornsea on 16th; Flamborough on the 17th and at both Filey and Scarborough on the 18th with one dead at Seaton on the 23rd.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

An estimated 14,000 pairs at the RSPB Reserve at Bempton would indicate little or no change in breeding status (27,300 individuals in 1989).

The only movements noted were at Flamborough with 4500 on 20th January and 10,300 on 29th April.

Most locations reported this and the following species merely as *auk sp.*; counts of such being 7860 passing Flamborough on 31st March; 7100 on 20th April with 32,500 on the 22nd and 15,500 on the 28th; 24,120 on 12th May; 8000 on 21st October and 2240 on the 15th.

1240 north at Hornsea on 25th September and 346 at Spurn on 10th June being the maxima at those locations.

One west at Sunk Island on 4th March and one on the Ouse at Saltmarsh on 28th October.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Estimated that 3500 pairs bred at Bempton indicating no apparent change in status (7350 individuals in 1989).

Specific counts at Flamborough were 1500 on 29th April and 2100 on 6th October.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

One north at Hornsea on 5th November and one at Flamborough on 14th December.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Only two records during the early months; both of single birds; at Spurn on 6th February and at Barmston on 2nd March.

The first of the autumn were reported on 26th September with two at Hornsea and one at Flamborough. Small numbers occasionally during October then the first large movement in early November with ten at Spurn on the 3rd when 75 were recorded at Flamborough and 45 at Scarborough. On the 4th; 109 north at Spurn; 701 north at Hornsea; 186 at Barmston; 1574 at Flamborough; 56 at Filey and 746 at Scarborough (this northerly movement obviously being still well off shore at Filey after rounding Flamborough Head). 138 north at Spurn on the 5th with 327 at Hornsea; 83 at Barmston; 671 at Flamborough and 63 at Scarborough. 40 were also recorded flying west along the Humber at Saltend on this date. Fewer on the 6th with four off Hornsea and 59 at Flamborough. 24 north at Spurn on the 7th; 12 at Hornsea; 22 at Barmston and 68 at Flamborough. With the exception of 25 at this last location on the 9th few during the remainder of the month. A second movement occurred in mid-December with, on the 12th, 34 north at Spurn; 234 at Hornsea and 465 at Flamborough; on the 13th; 222 north at Spurn; 724 at Hornsea and 1852 at Flamborough but the following day only 58 at this last location with 71 there on the 15th. A third movement but southerly this time with on the 22nd, 1629 off Filey whilst only 714 were recorded at Flamborough where 167 were reported the following day when 27 were at Barmston. Finally 800 at Flamborough on 27th with 1545 at Barmston the following day but only four there on the 29th.

Several locations inland reported single birds; either dead or in a very weak condition, often taken into care prior to succumbing. These were; Barnsley on 4th November; Blacktoft on 7th; Eske on 27th; Leven on 8th December and Dishforth on the same date; Wheldrake Ings on 23rd; Moss on 27th; Blacktoft 29th and at Roundhay Park, Leeds, on an unspecified date.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Estimated by the RSPB to be 3000 pairs breeding at Bempton (6000 individuals last year). Coastal movements reported from all watchpoints but with the exception of 125 south at Port Mulgrave on 28th July only Flamborough reported large numbers in what was considered to be a poor year there. Peak counts were, 37,000 on 17th March; 3550 on 22nd April with 4000 on the 29th; 4300 on 30th June; 4560 on 2nd July with 5650 on 9th; 7600 on 11th and 6900 on the 24th. Good numbers during early August with 4860 on 1st; 4650 on 3rd and 5680 on the 6th then less than 100 to the end of that month with very few afterwards though recorded on nine days in December totalling 34 birds which is unusual.

Single birds to the west at Sunk Island on 23rd June; 2nd and 23rd September.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Estimated to be 500 pairs breeding on the Bempton RSPB Reserve. 1250 present at Flamborough on 8th October with 2300 on the 13th. It is suggested that here the population is about 60 per cent pure. Inland, 300 near Tophill Low Res. on 23rd December and 760 near Nosterfield on 22nd December.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

1000 flying east over Broomhill Ings to roost on 30th December was by far the largest gathering reported. Up to 300 at this same location during October with 200+ at Sprotbrough Flash during November; 135 at Edderthorpe in October and 180 at Wentbridge on 30th December. In VC 64; 550 were reported at Ox Close on 16th September; 360 at Fairburn Ings on 9th December; 240 at Eccup Res. on 27th January with 250 there on 7th November.

Only small numbers reported from the eastern half of the county with 85 at Wheldrake Ings on 24th December being by far the largest count.

No apparent change in breeding status.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Widespread; no change in breeding status indicated. Many reports of flocks in excess of 1000 during both winter periods though only one in the east of the county where 1250 were recorded near Tophill Low Res. on 23rd December.

Further west, 2500 at Escrick on 3rd January with 3000 there on the 6th; 1000 at Bielby on 11th January and up to 1200 at Castle Howard throughout November.

Many large gatherings in VC 63 with 1000 at Sprotborough on 11th January; 4000+ at Pot Hills Marsh on the 21st; 2000 at Winterset Res. on 18th February with 3000 at Wroot on the 3rd and 1100 roosting at Thrybergh on the 16th. During the latter months, 1000 were reported from both Broomhill Ings and Broomhead Res. on the 5th December with 1000 at Stainborough on the 25th. Southerly movement was noted regularly in the Sheffield area with 2094 at Redmires on 25th October and 1600 on the 1st November; at Holdworth 3665 on 3rd November with 6160 the following day; Ox Stones had 3770 on the 4th whilst 1600 passed over Wadsley Common on 9th December.

Up to 1000 at Staveley, VC 64, during September whilst 1500 passed through Fairburn Ings on 22nd February with 1820 to the north there between 3rd and 5th December.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

The only comment received on status indicated no change (VC 64).

Few large flocks in the east with maxima of 80 at Barmston; 72 at Filey and 67 at Tophill Low Res. (a record count there). Further inland; 85 were at Huby during mid-January with 67 at Thorngaby on 31st October. VC 63, as usual, recorded several large gatherings with 250 at Felkirk (Barnsley) in August; 200 near Castleford during late September/early October and 216 at Denaby Ings on 8th November. A further three locations reporting c100 during the autumn.

The few large gatherings reported in VC 64 were attributed to the mild weather with peaks of 75 at Staveley on 15th September and 60 at Fairburn Ings from late September to late October.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Described as 'declining' in most areas of VC 63 with the majority of breeding pairs being in the Doncaster area; seven locations holding 19 pairs. Ten to 15 pairs on Hatfield Moor (now only breeding there in peripheral scrub and woodland) where formerly 90 to 100 pairs bred. Described as a poor year at both Bielby and Flamborough and, whilst many locations in VC 61 reported breeding, this species was quite thinly distributed. In addition it was reported that there are no longer any regular westerly movements at Blacktoft in spring and few moving east there in the autumn. Southerly movement was noted at Spurn in May with 13 on the 16th and 26 on the 27th; nine at Flamborough on both the 23rd and 28th whilst 13 flew south at Spurn on the 3rd June. 16 passed west at Sunk Island on 12th May with ten east there on the 27th.

The first of the year was reported on 21st April at Barlow Common (VC 64) then at Winterset on 25th followed by birds on the 28th at Hatfield and Woodlesford Lock (Leeds). The last birds recorded were at Blacktoft on the 3rd October and at Candy Farm on the 8th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

The first of the year was at Hampsthwaite on the 16th April then at Skipwith Common the following day and at Mickletown Ings on the 19th. A widespread influx into the west of the county on the 28th/29th with the largest gatherings being ten on Hatfield Moor with seven at Swillington Ings and Selby. The last reported birds were at Ikley Moor, in VC 64, on 18th August (an early date); in VC 63, at Redmires Res. on the 25th and in VC 61 at Spurn on the 31st.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Bred in VC 61 at Skipsea; Atwick; Mappleton; Sigglesthorne; Lissett; Ulrome; Staxton; Laytham; South Duffield and along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas where there were 14 pairs. The only breeding records from VC 62 were from Wiggington and Wiganthorpe whilst in VC 63 this species is apparently very scarce in some areas. None were recorded in the Bradford area; a combined total of five records from the Halifax; Huddersfield and Sheffield areas. At least seven pairs bred in the Barnsley area; three of which reared young to the flying stage. Eight young were also released into this area. Two pairs bred near Doncaster whilst the number of sightings at Blacktoft continues to increase.

In VC 64; bred at Barkston Ash and Killinghall. Single birds were recorded at a further 11 locations with a pair near Saxton though breeding there not proven. An increase in records though whether an increase in birds or observer reporting is not sure.

Two records from VC 65; one at Catterick occasionally during September and one near Moulton on 22nd March.

Again, road traffic took a high toll of birds with at least nine being reported killed along roadsides.

A bird of the dark-breasted race *T.a. guttata* was recorded at Spurn on the 23rd/24th October – the first such record for the Observatory.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Scarce in the eastern part of VC 61; bred in this VC at North Grimston and probably at North Frodingham; Burnby; Hotham; Kelk and Goxhill. Bred in VC 62 at Brandsby; Snargate; Alne; Crayle; Easingwold and Whenby; all to the west of this VC and at Cayton in the east. 45 to 50 pairs bred in VC 63 with a further 15 to 20 pairs probably breeding. Eight were reported at Sprotborough Flash in July. No obvious change in status in VC 64 being widespread from the lowland farm areas to moorland edges with dry stone walls, whilst in VC 65, said to show signs of a very significant decline and missing from a number of traditional lowland locations.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

No apparent change in status though considered to be grossly under reported. More than 12 calling in one tetrad in the Moss valley, Sheffield on 31st March and at least 11 calling in less than one sq. km. at Atwick on 29th October.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Bred successfully at Skipworth Common; at two other locations in VC 61 and probably near Wheldrake where two juveniles were seen on 13th May. In VC 63, two pairs bred on Hatfield Moors where four former breeding sites were destroyed by peat cutting. Three pairs raised young near Barnsley whilst one pair bred near Dinnington. Bred at two locations in VC 64.

An influx noted along the coast towards the end of October with a maximum of seven at Spurn on 23rd and smaller numbers elsewhere. Up to five roosted at Flamborough in March whilst five were roosting at Cowlam Bottoms in February. An unexpected find was of 11 to 12 roosting at a third location in VC 61 during December.

Three roosts in VC 63 with significant numbers had, during the early months, eight, three and ten birds respectively with, in the latter months, 12, ten and no counts. The only roost in VC 64 was at Mickletown Ings with four, possibly five, in December.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

At least seven pairs bred at moorland locations in the Bradford; Barnsley and Sheffield area. Breeding confirmed at only six locations in VC 64 but is considered to have done so at more, as birds were present on most of the upland moors during summer. No indication of any change in breeding status in VC 65.

As usual, quite widespread along the coast during the winter months, usually one or two birds but three at Spurn on 22nd; 29th October and 1st November; three at Filey on 19th October and five at Cherry Cobb on 14th January. Scarce in VC 63 after August except at Blacktoft where two to three were present during the period September–December. One to two at over 20 lowland locations in VC 64 during the winter months with up to five at Staveley from January to late April.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

In VC 61, 17 singing males reported from Skipworth Common whilst in VC 62, four, possibly five, at Wykeham Forest and two, possibly four, birds at a clear, felled area in Yearsley Wood on 20th May. 28 churring males on Hatfield Moors, in VC 63, with 35 churring males on Thorne Moors (though some would undoubtedly be in Lincolnshire). Five males near Barnsley with three males at Wharnccliffe (six last year) and one on Haworth Moor on 10th July.

Away from the breeding areas; one at Adlingfleet Sluice on 6th August and one in the centre of Hull on 1st September.

Swift *Apus apus*

A very early bird, found freshly dead on the roadside at Oswaldkirk, on 11th April (JP) was the second earliest record this century (earliest 10th April 1987 at Bampton). The next to be reported was on 19th April in the Rother Valley C.P. then at Richmond on the 24th; at Broomhill Ings and Swillington Ings on 27th; at Otley G.P. and Thrybergh on the 28th; Scarborough on the 29th and there again on the 30th when birds were also recorded at Wilsic; Sprotborough and Wheldrake.

Widespread by about 8th May but 1000 at Fairburn Ings on the 6th; 1800 there on the 11th; 1200 at Hornsea Mere on 13th when 1500 were also at Tophill Low Res.; 1850 at Hornsea Mere on 15th with 1200 at Tophill Low Res. on 18th and 1500 at Fairburn Ings on the 24th.

Counts in June were 3600 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd with 3700 the following day; 3200 at Tophill Low Res. on the 5th with 1500 on the 8th; 1000 at Fairburn Ings on the 6th. 1400 at Tophill Low Res. on 1st July with 2100 at Hornsea Mere on 9th and 1600 on the 30th. The only large count during August being 1200 at Hornsea Mere on the 16th.

Coastal passage noted at Spurn with 1000–3000 daily from 17th to 19th June; 1500 on 21st with 2500 on the 30th. 10,000 on 1st July, thereafter, 500 or below excepting 1000 on 30th August. At Flamborough; 1300 on 1st July with 1250 on the 28th and then 540 on 30th August. Inland, southwesterly movement noted over Ainderby Steeple and Northallerton on 4th July with 1340 counted in 90 minutes.

Small numbers in September except at Hornsea Mere where 120 were present on the 2nd and 70 on the 4th with 60 the following day. More October records than usual with birds at Flamborough; Atwick and Spurn on the 1st; Spurn on the 2nd; Atwick on 7th; Spurn on 16th; Denaby Ings on 19th; Spurn on 25th; Filey on the 27th; Filey and Scarborough on the 30th and finally Spurn and Scarborough on the 31st with three in Peasholme Park at the latter location.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Some ten pairs confirmed as breeding in VC 61 plus a further six inside the York boundary. Excepting breeding records from the York Orn. Club area of VC 62, quite scarce in that VC. 'Strong breeding population this year' in VC 63. 25 pairs known to have bred in VC 64 with a further five probably doing so. VC 65 reported an excellent breeding season.

Eight were present at Pool Paper Mills on 2nd August with 11 at Escrick on the 12th whilst up to three were noted at several locations during the year. Generally widespread and doing well.

Bee Eater *Merops apiaster*

One at Spurn on 23rd May (TC:BRS *et al*) with another there on 29th May (JC).

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Single birds at Filey on 20th April (Miss M. K. Shipley-Beal) and at Easington on 11th September (DJB). One at Ravenscar, Scarborough on 24th October was seen again on the 29th.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

A poor year. Singles in spring at Spurn on 22nd April and at Filey on 12th and 13th May. In autumn, one present at Spurn from 14th September to 3rd October during which its weight increased by 20 per cent. Two at Flamborough on 17th September.

One picked up injured near Hebden Bridge on 22nd April was taken to a Rothdale sanctuary where, despite feeding well, it died six weeks later.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

The only definite breeding in VC 61 was at Burnby; Nunburnholme and Skipwith Common with probable breeding occurring at Londesborough Park. In VC 62, bred at Newburgh Priory with birds present at many other locations though no comments received. Only 12 locations in VC 63 reported positive breeding, mainly in the Doncaster and Huddersfield areas but widely and frequently reported throughout the VC indicating far greater breeding numbers. Bred at 11 locations in VC 64 including Fairburn Ings (the first time at that location). As with VC 63 reported widely and thus may be more widespread as a breeding species. Considered to be increasing in VC 64. Widespread in VC 65 in suitable habitat but no comments received on breeding status.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

No change in status reported though occasionally reported on the high ground of VC 65 (Feldon Ranges). Two birds trapped at Spurn in September were attributed, by measurements, to be of the continental race *D.m. major*.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

No breeding records received from either VC 61 or VC 62 though birds were reported during the summer at Coxwold; Wheldrake; Skipwith; Escrick; Askham Bog; Strensall Common and at three locations in York. At least ten pairs bred in VC 63 with probable breeding at a further 20 locations. The overall number of sightings and the number of locations at which this species was reported indicates a noticeable increase in status. Bred at seven locations in VC 64 and may have done so at a further seven; the majority being in the Leeds area. Single birds were occasionally recorded at some 47 locations in VC 64 including a male at Malham Tarn, this being only the second record for that location; the other being in 1950/51.

Bred at two locations in the Richmond area of VC 65 with probably breeding occurring at Fawcett Park. Still considered to be under recorded in this VC.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

One at Flamborough on 26th May (MN). One south at Spurn on 28th March; one there on 13th/14th October, at the Point with another south on the 14th. One northeast at Sunk Island on the 13th and one east there on the 20th (RPT *et al*).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

During the early months flocks in excess of 100 were reported in January from Filey with 130 and Hagg Wood with 150 on the 2nd; 100+ at Wike on the 3rd; 150 at Copgrove on the

28th when 124 were at High Batts N.R. Nowhere reporting flocks of this size in February whilst in March, 170 were present at Flamborough with 500 at Brockadale. 120 in April at Flamborough then no further large gatherings until October when up to 400 were present, considered to be mainly passage birds, whilst at Spurn, southerly passage was reported on many days in this month with a maximum of 1247 on the 24th. Southerly passage on many days here during early November with 156 on the 1st and 283 on the 11th; Flamborough having a peak of 160 during this month. Passage was reported along the Humber at Sunk Island with 189 to the south on 13th October (on which date 55 came in off the sea at Filey and 82 off the sea at Spurn); 137 west on 14th October with 263 west on 11th November.

Inland; passage was reported to the west over Broomhill Ings with 345 on 7th October and 338 on the 14th when 251 moved southwest over Thrybergh C.P. 5124 were counted passing south or southwesterly over Fairburn Ings between 17th September and the 13th November with maxima of 246 on 29th September; 975 on 14th October then 445 on the 17th and 296 on the 21st; 475 counted on 11th November.

Other counts during the latter months were 150 at Long Nab on 31st October; 100 at Barlow Common on 28th September and 400 at Barmston on the 30th December.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

A scarce bird with two at Flamborough on 2nd and three on 3rd May. All other records were from the latter months with two at Spurn on 25th October then one south there on the 27th with two south on the 31st. Five south at Hornsea on 5th November whilst at Filey two were present on the 11th and one on the 23rd.

Inland, one was recorded at Pugney's C.P. during the late evening of 7th November being reported again early the following morning.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

The first bird of the year, at South Cliff Golf Course, Scarborough on 19th February being the earliest arrival date ever in Yorkshire for this species (KC) whilst the birds at Sprotborough Flash and Blacktoft on 11th March were the second earliest on record (along with the bird at Bolton-on-Swale last year). 20 were present at Elland G.P. on the 13th with birds also reported on this date at Wheldrake Ings; Fairburn Ings; Thrybergh Res.; Pugney's C.P.; Thorpe Marsh and Hornsea Mere. Birds were widespread by the third week of this month with 50 at Pugney's C.P. on the 19th; 60 at Fairburn Ings on the 21st and 100 at Hay-a-Park on the 23rd. Excepting the very early arrival of some birds the spring passage was nowhere outstanding with maxima reported at Hornsea Mere of 700 on 13th May and 760 the following day whilst 360 were at Fairburn Ings on the 11th.

Most areas reported a good breeding season with those that didn't specifying disturbance or changes in the condition or availability of breeding sites (loss of river banks, cliff faces etc.) and not lack of numbers as reasons.

A good autumn passage also pointed to a successful breeding season with Spurn and Tophill Low Res. both reporting record counts; the former having 1700 on 8th July whilst the latter recorded 2700 on 2nd September. Maximum at Hornsea Mere being 1125 on 16th August with the roost at Blacktoft holding 1300 on 26th July and a maximum of 11,500 on 24th August. Up to 2000 at Fairburn Ings between 28th August and 8th September; 600 there on 10th September but only 25 left by the 14th.

Reported in October from Gouthwaite Res. and Anderby Steeple on 14th; Hornsea on 15th and Spurn on the 15th, 16th and 24th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Very early birds reported from Scarborough on 4th March; Harrogate on the 18th then Knotford Nook on the 22nd and Swillington Ings on the 23rd. One at Flamborough on 29th March then several in the first days of April with, on the 2nd, single birds at Spurn; Filey; Doncaster and Leeshaw Res. After this early flush of birds most locations had few until the 3rd week of April with the first noticeable passage along the coast on the 29th and 30th though many birds did not arrive until mid-May. Maxima reported being up to 400 at Flamborough during this period with 420 at Hornsea Mere on 16th on which date 1200

flew south at Spurn; 400 at Fairburn Ings on the 11th/12th whilst 101 flew west at Sunk Island on the 13th.

No comments were received concerning the breeding status.

Roosts in autumn reported were; 3000 at Wheldrake Ings on 23rd August increasing to 20,000 the following day then down again to 5000 on the 29th/30th. Elsewhere in VC 61 counts were low with 800 at Tophill Low Res. on 19th August and 720 at Hornsea Mere on 4th September. No large gatherings recorded in VC 62 whilst in VC 63; 15,000 were at Wombwell Ings on 23rd August with up to 5000 at Worsbrough during August; 5000 at Potteric Carr on 5th September and at Jubilee Bridge, Thorne on 25th September; 4000 during mid-September at Winterset Res. In VC 64; 16,000 at Fairburn Ings on 28th August with 13,000 there from 1st to 8th September then 5500 on the 10th; 1000 on the 13th and 2500 on the 25th. 5000 at Staveley on 2nd September with 1000+ at Bishop Monkton on the 8th; Hawksworth Moor on the 9th and Barlow Common on the 11th.

Peak passage along the coast occurred on 27th August when 1900 passed south at Flamborough; 420 at Hornsea and 3600 at Spurn. 800 at Flamborough on the 30th with 600 there on 1st September and 400 on the 22nd. 751 south at Spurn on the 2nd. Passage along the Humber was noted at Sunk Island with 2145 west and 61 east on 25th August; 811 east on the 26th; 430 east and 104 west on the 27th; 817 west, 86 east on 1st September; 1462 west on the 8th with 468 on 9th and 310 on the 15th.

Birds lingered into late October at several locations, being reported daily as Spurn until the 31st. In November; one at Winterset Res. on the 2nd; Thorpe Marsh and Hornsea on the 4th; three at Skeffling on 6th/7th with two on the 8th; one at Flamborough on 9th; at Dishforth on 10th; three at Spurn on 11th, one there on 13th with two on the 14th when one was at both Flamborough and Scarborough.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

One at Hornsea Mere on 5th May (SM) with one south at Spurn at midday on the same date (CPM:NAB). The Hornsea record is still under consideration by the BBRC.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Several early records with single birds at Robin Hood's Bay on 19th March; Scarborough on 22nd; two at Fairburn Ings on the 25th with one at Hornsea Mere on the 28th. Excepting these records, birds were generally late in arriving with several locations reporting their first arrivals from the 16th April onwards and most towards the end of that month. Peaks during spring being 600 at Winterset Res. on 11th May; Fairburn Ings on 12th; 600 at Flamborough on the 22nd and 460 at Spurn on 2nd June.

Considered to have had a good breeding season judging from autumnal gatherings with, in VC 64, 1000+ over Hawksworth Moor on 9th September; 500 at Fairburn Ings on 27th August and 400 at Swillington Ings on 1st September; in VC 63; 400 at Thrybergh Res. from 20th August into September with 400 at Upper Denby on 12th September and in VC 61 1000 at Wheldrake Ings on 5th September when 420 were counted at Hornsea Mere.

Along the coast, 4200 flew south at Flamborough on 27th August when 1600 passed Spurn; 1500 at Flamborough on 1st September with 1200 the following day; 476 south at Spurn on the 2nd. Westerly passage along the Humber at Sunk Island with 413 on 25th August and 136 on 9th September.

Regular at Spurn to the end of October whilst November birds were reported from Hornsea and Ruswarp, near Whitby on the 10th; Spurn on the 11th; Filey on the 14th and Scarborough on the 18th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Single birds at Flamborough on 24th September (PAL:JMP); 16th October (WEO) and 25th October (JCL). At Spurn on 22nd October and 25th November.

Addition to the 1989 Report: Single birds at Flamborough on 30th October and 19th November (DIMW).

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

One at Flamborough on the 17th May (PAL) was only the second record for that location. One at Spurn on 28th and 29th August (NAB *et al.*).

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Single birds at Flamborough on 19th October (PAL:JMP); at Whitby on the 21st (TJB:RSS:AW) with another nearby at Kettleless on the same day (TJB:RSS:AW) and finally one at Flamborough on the 24th/25th (PAL:JMP:NAP). The Flamborough birds are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One at Flamborough on 31st March was the first of the year followed by one on Thorne Moors on 3rd April. The main influx occurred towards the end of April with birds becoming widespread in western VC 63. Maxima reported during spring were ten at Skipwith Common on the 26th April with nine at Flamborough on the 29th. In May, six at Flamborough on the 6th/7th with seven on the 12th and five at Spurn on the 5th.

No change in breeding status reported.

Autumn passage was light with Flamborough commenting 'probably the worst autumn passage ever'. Inland, six at Scholebrook (Bradford) on 13th September; six at Redmires Res. on 21st/22nd with late birds there and at Low Moor on the 7th October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Only small parties reported during January and February with a slight increase in numbers during March. Up to 120 were at Flamborough in this month whilst at several inland locations spring passage was noted; 80 were at High Batts N.R. and 70+ at Wike on the 24th whilst 245 flew north over Wincobank Hill (Sheffield) in two hours on the 29th March. Filey recorded 120 on 31st March. Up to 140 on many days during the first half of April at Flamborough; 108 were recorded moving west over Barden Moor on the 1st with 200 on Burbage Moor on the 16th whilst in VC 65, 140 were at Bolton-on-Swale on the 4th.

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged as no comments received.

Autumn passage was noted in mid-August with 300 at Duck Street Quarry on the 12th and 300 at Redmires Res. the following day. In September, along the coast, 200 arrived at Filey on 8th with 400 the following day. 825 at Flamborough on the 10th with 400 there on several other days of the month whilst 1200 flew south at Spurn on the 10th and 5485 south there on the 18th. This passage was reflected at Sunk Island, on the Humber, where 515 flew west on the 18th with 106 west on the 9th and 171 west on the 22nd. Inland, 650 flew south at Strines Top on 21st September; 150 at Gouthwaite Res. on the 9th with similar counts at Darley on the 13th and Bolton Woods Quarry on the 13th. 200 at Fairburn Ings on the 7th with 140 there on the 22nd. 150 west at Broomhill Ings on 6th October being the only inland record of note during that month whilst on the coast; up to 300 at Flamborough during mid-month and at Spurn 757 flew south on the 14th with 274 on the 31st. Scarcer during the last two months of the year with 200 at Fairburn Ings on 9th December decreasing to 140 the following day.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Single bird at Flamborough on 20th October (PTT *et al.*). Still under consideration by the BBRC.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

No comments received concerning the breeding status thus assumed to be unchanged.

Usually only small numbers at Filey though ten were recorded on the 17th December. Normal counts reported from Flamborough with up to 30 on passage almost daily in October. Wintering counts there gave 61 on 25th November and 59 on 21st December. Small numbers at Spurn during the first half of the year with up to eight in March. 20 present there on 1st October with 16 on the 3rd; 12 on the 12th and 28 on 22nd. In addition, 28 flew south there on the 13th and 29 on the 24th. Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, up

to ten regularly during the first three months but 11 on 6th January; 21, a very high count, on the 21st and 12 on 11th February. 12 flew east there on 13th October with 14 east on the 20th.

Inland, in VC 63, one to two at Blacktoft until 21st February with one there from 5th November to the year's end. One at Worsbrough on 31st March whilst one to two were at nine locations during the period mid-September to mid-November mainly being recorded during October. In VC 64, one occasionally at Knostrop S.F.; Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings, in January. Three at Swillington Ings on 2nd/3rd March; two remaining until the 21st. Five west over Weetwood Filter Beds, Leeds, on 7th April with three at Swillington Ings the following day. In Autumn, single birds occasionally at Hay-a-Park; Fairburn Ings; Swillington Ings and Roundhay Park, Leeds, whilst three were at Hay-a-Park on 14th October; two at Fairburn Ings on the 13th October and two at Swillington Ings on 17th December.

Birds attributable to the Scandinavian race *A.p. littoralis*, on field characteristics, were reported from Filey with singles on 31st March and 1st April; at Flamborough on 4th and 13th April; Duffield Carrs on 16th April; Ardsley Res. on 13th October; Swillington Ings on 18th November and 18th December and finally at Knostrop S.F. from 25th November to the year's end.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

A single bird was at Barmston on 27th October; 7th/8th November and 2nd December. In VC 63; one at Blacktoft from 16th March then two on the 31st but up to four on 9th April with the last one on the 18th. One returned to this location on 28th October with singles throughout the last two months but two on 20th November. One at Leeshaw Res. from 4th to 6th April.

In VC 64, one at Fairburn Ings from 18th March to 4th April; two at Swillington Ings from 24th March to 7th April with one remaining to the 13th. In autumn; one at Fairburn Ings from 10th November to the end of the year. One at Knostrop S.F. on 17th, 26th and 28th November then throughout December with a second bird on the 2nd. One at Swillington Ings on 21st December.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

The first bird arrived on 4th April at Barlow Common followed by one the next day at Edderthorpe. One at Aldwarke S.F. on 12th; Winterset; Blacktoft and Spurn on the 13th then four at both Pugney's C.P. and Tophill Low Res. with one each at Fairburn Ings; Swillington Ings; Staveley and Harrogate S.R. on the 14th. Widespread by the end of this month though spring maxima considered low in VC 64 except at Fairburn Ings; the worst spring passage for many years at Flamborough but good numbers at Pulfin Bog. Maxima at Flamborough being 20 on 5th May and at Fairburn Ings, 30 on 26th/27th April.

No comments received concerning breeding status in VC 61 but 20 pairs at Laytham. Appears to be nearing extinction as a breeding bird in York. In VC 63 a scarce breeder now in all but the lowlands in the east of the Barnsley area and generally around Doncaster. Atlas work in the Leeds area produced 36 pairs mostly in farmland well away from water.

In contrast to the spring, Flamborough reported a good autumn with peaks of 45 on 5th August; 75 on 27th and 45 on 28th. Passage was light at Spurn with 43 on 23rd August as the peak. At Sunk Island; 104 flew west on 1st September and 35 on the 8th.

Maxima in VC 63 were 242 at Broomhill Ings on 30th July; 85 at Edderthorpe on 8th August; 70 at Winterset on 16th August whilst the Blacktoft roost held 65 on 22nd August; 125 on the 31st then 90 on 1st September with 75 on the 6th.

VC 64 reported a poor autumn with maxima of 40 at Fairburn Ings on 14th August; 41 at Fleet Plantation on the 24th and 30+ at Knostrop.

Late birds were two at Filey on 9th October with one at Edderthorpe; one at Ardsley Res. on 23rd and one at Flamborough.

Birds of the nominate race *M.f. flava* were reported from Spurn on 9th May; 12th August and 15th September; at Flamborough with two on 29th April; one on four days in May then on 14th July and 27th August; at Hornsea Mere from 10th to 13th August; two at

Grimston on 18th May; several at Tophill Low Res. between 21st April and early June including a female carrying nest material. In VC 64 at Fairburn Ings on 26th August and Gouthwaite on 13th September whilst in VC 65 one at Stapleton on 7th May and one at Nosterfield on 19th June. Birds showing the characteristics (dark ear coverts and forehead with greyish rear crown) attributed to the race *M.f. thunbergi* (grey-headed Wagtail) were reported from Spurn on 6th May and at Elland G.P. on 10th and 11th June (AGG:PJWS:MC).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Definite breeding occurred in VC 61 at Bielby; Escrick and along the Pocklington Canal with birds being present during the breeding season at Lowthorpe; Settrington; North Grimston and Wintringham. Quite well distributed away from the above areas outwith the breeding season; usually single birds, occasionally two but three at Spurn, passing south, on the 17th July; three on 26th September and again on 23rd October with four at Flamborough on 16th September. The only breeding records from VC 62 came from the York Orn. Club area with pairs at six locations though this does not reflect the true status in this VC.

Well distributed in the west of VC 63 during the breeding season moving to the lower eastern part of the area in winter. Bred at Roche Abbey and Knottingley in the east. Continues to increase in the Leeds area of VC 64 and possibly also in the Harrogate area, maxima reported being 16 at Pool Paper Mills on 26th July and 20 at Knostrop S.F. on 5th August. No comments received from VC 65.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

No comments received concerning breeding status thus assumed to be unchanged. Large roosts were reported in winter from Edderthorpe Flash with 400+ on 28th January; up to 600 at Grimethorpe Coalite plant during January with a similar number again at the end of the year. A roost in Doncaster town centre (traffic roundabout and nearby trees) showed great variation in numbers with peaks on cold, still nights of 400+ on 20th October; 220 on 27th October; maximum in November 420+ then 130+ on 1st December; 300+ on the 4th; 500 on 6th; 700 on the 16th then 340+ on the 25th. Smaller roosts in Shipley; Huddersfield; Bradford; Keighley and Halifax.

In VC 64, 186 at Knaresborough on 18th February; 150 at Harrogate District Hospital on 17th March and 200 at Knostrop on 2nd and 7th September.

The only passage noted along the coast was at Flamborough with 140 on 17th March. 140 roosted there during late September and early October but scarce then until the end of the year.

Birds attributed to the race *M.a. alba* were reported from many locations, usually one to four being involved but seven at Flamborough on 8th and 22nd April with eight at Otley G.P. on the 17th.

Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus*

Small numbers in VC 61 with 30 at Hessele on 27th January otherwise one to four at four locations during the early months. In the latter months, slightly more widespread with 12 at Flamborough on 9th November; eight at Spurn on the 11th. Seven at Hornsea Mere in November and seven at Easington on 29th October.

One to four at Scarborough and Whitby during January/February with ten on 14th April in Scarborough. Several parties of up to 60 at this location in early November totalling between 150 and 200 birds then a single party of that size near the Crown Hotel on the 10th with 150 near Spa Bridge (same flock?) on the 14th. 100 at Crossgates, near Seamer on 3rd December. c120 at Pickering on 30th November with c100 there on 16th December whilst up to 46 were near Kilburn from 7th November to 12th December.

One to three at four locations in VC 63 during January/February. Slightly more widespread during late November with a party at Otley Chevin increasing from three on 25th November to seven on 9th December, then eight from the 10th to 15th; nine on 16th; 15+ on 24th, 12 the following day, then down to three by the 31st. One to four occasionally

at Thorpe Marsh; Wath Ings; Shibden Park, Huddersfield; Blacktoft and Durkar, Low Lane.

In VC 64; one or two during the early months at Fairburn Ings and at three locations in the Leeds area whilst during the latter months; two at Knotford Nook on 18th November; four at Newby, Leeds on 22nd with eight there on the 25th. Five at Marston, Leeds, from mid-December. Two at Leyburn, VC 65, on 3rd January with 27 at Hutton Magna on 4th November; three at Jenny Hill from 4th to 7th November and 17 at Preston under Scar on 27th November.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

No status changes reported. Good numbers reported from typical habitats in the west of VC 63. 15 pairs between Bolton Bridge and Barden Bridge on the River Wharfe (about four miles) indicating how common this species is in some areas.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

No overall change in status though a slight decrease in the numbers of breeding territories at Fairburn Ings. High counts reported were 66 in Woolley Woods on 3rd February; 77 males at Worsbrough on 4th May (record count for that location) and 80 in autumn at Sprotborough Flash. Some indication of passage along the coast with 80 at Flamborough on 17th and 24th October and 50 at Filey on the 20th.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

No apparent change in status. No indication of passage at Flamborough though 20 were reported from Castle Hill, Scarborough on 18th and 19th October.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

No significant change in status though a slight decrease noted at Fairburn Ings. A heavy fall along the coast in mid-October with Spurn recording up to 22 to the 17th then 500 on 18th; 700 on 19th; 1500 on 20th decreasing to 500 the following day with 220 present from the 22nd to 24th and 100 on the 27th and 29th. Flamborough had 400 on the 18th; 1200 on 19th; 500 on the 20th/21st with 300 on the 22nd and down to 100 on the 27th. Filey had 50 on the 18th increasing to 120 on 20th gradually decreasing to 20 by the 27th. 90 at Sunk Island on the 20th whilst 40+ were on Castle Hill, Scarborough. Very few noted along the Holderness coast from Bridlington to Spurn.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Three singing males on Thorne Moors on the 6th May whilst 13 pairs were considered to have bred in suitable dense woodland in the area. Breeding may well have occurred to the east of Leeds.

Single birds at Adel Dam on 4th May; East Cottingwith on 14th June and at Hollicarrs on the 18th and Flamborough on 29th August.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

One at Flamborough on 12th May; at Filey on 13th and 14th with another there on the 20th when one was also at Kilnsea. One at Spurn on the 21st with two at Flamborough on the 22nd.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Three pairs raised one brood each in urban areas of Sheffield whilst males were reported singing at a further three locations. Elsewhere in VC 63; single birds were recorded at Derby Delph Quarry, Rishworth, on 2nd May; Fly Flatts Res. on 25th August; Castleford from 27th August to 21st September and at Winterset on 20th October. In VC 64, a male reported at Barnbow, Leeds from late May into early June and in VC 62, a male singing at York Carriage Works on 10th/11th May; two on 20th May then one again on 2nd July.

Reported along the coast of both VC 61 and VC 62 during the periods March to May and again from August to early November. Outside the periods, single birds at Flamborough

on 2nd/3rd and at Spurn on 15th July. During the periods of spring and autumn one or two birds were occasionally recorded at Scarborough; Filey; Flamborough; Grimston; Barmston; Spurn and Skeffing whilst away from the coast in VC 62, one at Wykeham Forest on 1st November. Larger counts were reported from Filey with four on 13th October; Flamborough with four on 13th/14th October; five on the 18th/19th; four on the 21st then nine on 22nd. Spurn had nine on 13th October; eight on the 20th; nine on 21st with 19 on the 22nd then six the following day decreasing to one on the 29th.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A male at Fairburn Ings from the 4th to 8th April was the first of the year with one at Redmires on the 9th, followed by one at North Duffield on the 16th and Strid Woods on the 18th. Spring passage was light with six at Flamborough on 29th April and seven there on 7th May whilst five were at Spurn on 30th April.

All reports received of breeding indicated a good year with status being maintained or a slight increase, as in VC 64, where up to 20 pairs bred in Strid Woods.

Autumn passage generally light although good numbers were reported from the lowland areas of VC 63 where eight were at Winterset on 21st August and, at Thorpe Marsh, nine on 23rd July, 17th and 20th August with 12 on the 27th. Passage reported from many locations along the coast with maxima at Flamborough of seven on 27th August and 12 on 24th September whilst Spurn had 12 on 13th September with seven the following day and six on the 15th.

Late birds were at Stockbridge (Keighley) on 29th/30th October; one at Whinmoor (Leeds) on the 30th and at Flamborough on 5th November.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Conflicting reports were received with respect to breeding status and numbers. VC 65 reported 'an excellent breeding season' whilst from VC 63 'breeding numbers in upland areas west of Huddersfield, Barnsley and Sheffield were lower than usual but locations on lower ground had nearer to usual numbers though none in the Hatfield Moor area where ten pairs formerly bred'. No comments received from VC 64 though 13 were apparently holding territories on Barden Moors.

A bird at Thrybergh C.P. on the 23rd February constitutes the earliest ever reported in Yorkshire (Fairburn Ings, 26th March 1989 being the previous earliest) and arouses conjecture as to whether the individual may even have over-wintered. The next bird reported was on 19th April in the Rother Valley C.P. then singles at Spurn on 29th and 30th plus birds on this latter date at Ingbirchworth; Collingham; Farnham and Hutton Conyers. The main arrival occurred in early May with maxima at Flamborough of nine on the 5th; 11 on 6th and 20 on the 7th while Spurn recorded ten on the 6th.

In autumn, ten were at Flamborough on 7th August with the main passage occurring at the end of the month when 14 were present on the 26th; 19 on the 27th; 14 on 28th; 37 on 29th; 20 on the 30th with 14 on 1st September and then ten on the 8th. Spurn reflected this passage with 20 on 24th August; 38 on the 27th; 42 on 29th and 19 on 1st September. Filey recorded a peak of 22 on 28th August.

Inland, eight were recorded at both Thorpe Marsh and Baildon Moor on 9th September. The last birds of the year were at Filey on 20th October; Flamborough on 19th and 21st with one at Spurn on the 21st and 22nd.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

A very good year for this species in both VC 63 and VC 64. In the former VC, pairs were recorded at Deer Hill and Meltham Cop throughout February; in Pontefract Park up to 21st February; at Withens Clough on 21st March; Winterset from 3rd to 10th March; at Thrybergh C.P. on 25th/26th September; at Scammonden on 2nd October with another pair there from 25th to 3rd November; at Broomhill Ings on 10th October; Thorpe Marsh on 16th/17th October and at Blacktoft from 9th December to the year's end. Five, all immatures, at Broadstones on 4th October with three at Burbage Brook on 10th November and three on Strines Top Moor on 30th October with two there on 5th December. Single

birds were also reported occasionally from Midhope; Winscar; Oxenhope; Tudworth; Breasley; Wath Ings; Worsbrough; Pot Hills Marsh; Agden; Burbage Moor; and Sowerby.

In VC 64; up to five were in the Scargill area between 1st October and early December whilst pairs were reported at Baildon on 5th January; 3rd March; 25th August; at North Stanley on 4th March; Timble Ings, 11th March; Fairburn Ings on 22nd September; Lower Barden Res. on 15th November; Marton Moor on 2nd December and at Little Armscliffe Crag on 23rd. Single birds were also noted on one or more occasions at Hay-a-Park; Knotford Nook; Mickletown Ings; Fleet Plantation; Horsforth; Denton Moor and Felbeck.

A male was present at Hudswell, in VC 65, from 15th March to 11th April; one at Cayton Carr, VC 62, whilst in VC 61, two at Flamborough on 28th March with single birds on a further 20 days and one wintering for the first time in over a decade being present from 2nd November to the end of the year. Up to four daily at Spurn during January/February; up to four in early October then four again on the 6th and at the end of the month; four on 1st November and the 25th. Three at Saltend on 14th October with two from 4th November to the year's end. Single birds occasionally at Skeffling; Sunk Island; Tophill Low Res.; Filey and Grimston.

Birds attributable to one of the eastern races either *S.t. maura* or *S.t. stejnegeri* were reported at Flamborough with an adult male on 21st April (MN:PAL:PJW); an adult male on 7th May (MN:PJW:PAL:JCL *et al*); an immature on 20th October (MN:DIMW) and a immature from 26th to 29th October (PJW:MN:DIMW *et al*).

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

A first winter bird at Kilnsea from the 21st October to the 23rd (JG:JMc). The first record for Yorkshire.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first of the year, eight at Scarborough, on 1st March, were early and well in advance of the next birds, singles at Spurn on the 9th and 11th. These were followed by single birds at Broomhill Ings on the 13th; Tophill Low Res. on the 14th then Kilnsea on the 15th; at Flamborough and Rombolds Moor on the 16th when two were on Burbage Moor. On the 17th, seven at Spurn with the same number at Broomhill Ings; three at Grimston and one each at Sunk Island and Fairburn Ings. The first influx on the coast occurred at the end of the month with 15 at Flamborough on 28th and 20 on the 31st whilst Spurn reported 13 on the 28th. Widespread in VC 63 by the end of this month. A second influx towards late April with Spurn recording up to 28 between the 20th and 22nd; 21 at Filey on the 21st; 40 at Flamborough on this date with 27 on the 22nd and 27 again on the 29th while 30 were at Kilnsea on the same day.

Birds attributed to the race *O.o. leucorrhoa* (Greenland Wheatear) were reported from many locations during spring; usually one or two individuals being involved but five at Mickletown Ings on 9th May whilst at Flamborough, 168 birds were recorded during May with maxima of 25 on 7th and 20 on the 21st. The only autumn records of this race being one at Droughton Heights on 18th August and at Flamborough with two on 1st September and three there on 14th October.

The only comment on breeding status received was 'successful at many moorland sites in VC 63' otherwise no change assumed.

Autumn passage light with maxima reported being 40 at Flamborough on 1st September and 25 on the 8th whilst Spurn had 20 on 16th August. Last birds of the year, two at Flamborough; one at Ripon Parks and seven at Spurn on 29th October; Spurn and Hornsea on the 30th; Spurn on the 31st with one remaining at Scammonden from the 25th October to 3rd November.

Pied Wheatear

Addition to the 1989 Report: One at Barmston on the 20th October (PP) is still under consideration by the BBRC.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

One at Worsbrough on 8th March with the next at Scar House on the 14th; birds were widespread by the 20th at inland locations though none were reported from the coast until the 30th. An influx along the coast on 21st April with 21 at Flamborough; 19 in the Easington area; 17 at Spurn and nine at Filey. 21 were still present at Flamborough on the 22nd with six at Spurn though none at the other locations. Six at Spurn on the 23rd with ten at Flamborough on the 29th then six at Spurn on the 30th with seven on the 1st May.

Few comments on breeding in VC 64 but thought to be unchanged while in VC 63 bred at two locations near Sheffield; five pairs near Barnsley and four near Halifax. Bred at two locations near Huddersfield and probably at a third but apparently totally absent from three traditional locations.

Very little passage inland during the autumn though ten were at Oxenhope on 30th September and six at Upper Barden Res. on the 7th October.

A large influx along the coast in October in association with other thrushes; Scarborough reported eight on the 19th; Filey 11 on the 20th and 14 on the 27th; Flamborough, 30 on 18th; 32 on 19th; 31 on 20th; 21 on 21st and 12 on 22nd; Atwick, 12 on 20th; 17 between Mappleton and Cowden on the 20th; Grimston had eight on the 20th whilst up to six were at Spurn from the 18th to the 21st. Six at Bempton on the 27th. The last of the year was reported from Filey on 10th November.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Few large concentrations during the early months; the largest being 100 at Sprotborough Flash during January.

Excepting a decrease in territories at Fairburn Ings from 20 in 1988 to 18 last year and 14 this year, no comments were received concerning breeding status.

A very large influx occurred in October with the following counts along the coast; Scarborough, 280+ on 18th, 200+ on 19th; Filey, 120 on 13th, up to 250 between the 18th and 23rd with 300 on the 27th; Flamborough, 1000 on 13th, 2000 on the 18th, 4000 on 19th, 3500 on 20th, 3000 on the 21st then up to 400 to the 28th; Atwick, few until the 23rd then 300 in contrast to 850 at Cowden on 20th and 600 there on the 22nd; Grimston, 310 on 18th, 200 on 19th; Spurn, 234 on 13th, 200 on the 18th, 1000 on 19th, 800 on 20th, 2500 on 21st with 546+ on the 22nd, 300 on the 23rd/24th then 150 between the 25th and 27th. At Sunk Island, 200 on 20th, 80 on the 21st and 120 on the 27th. This influx was noted inland with up to 60 at several locations. Other gatherings inland were 130 at Thorpe Marsh on 31st October, 200 at Denaby Ings on 8th November with up to 100 at Thrybergh during December. Exceptional numbers at Tophill Low Res. in December with 100 on the 9th, 236 on the 16th and 135 on 23rd.

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis*

A single bird, probably first winter, of the race *T.r. atrogularis*, was recorded in a garden at Kellington from 28th January to the 4th February (Mrs J. Harrison). The third record for Yorkshire.

A bird of the nominate race *T.r. ruficollis* (Red-throated Thrush) was at Easington on 7th October (NAB:GED); the first record for Yorkshire. This record still under consideration by the BBRC.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Breeding occurred at Ugthorpe, near Whitby where a pair laid five eggs rearing three young (PWH:JH).

Large gatherings in VC 63 and VC 64 during late January/early February probably as a result of snow falls. Peaks in this period being 5040 near Silsden on 26th February; 1264 south over High Batts N.R. on 28th; 3500 at Bishop Monkton on the 29th; 2000 at Rigton Hill on the 31st with 1500 at Fulwood Head, Sheffield, on the same day and 2000 at Black Hill Lane, Leeds, on 1st February. Other large gatherings during these early months were 2000 at Broomhead on 21st February with 1000 at Broadstones the same day and 1000 at

Ringinglow on 22nd March. The last bird of the spring being reported from Flamborough on 8th June.

The first returning birds of the autumn were two off the sea at Hornsea on 5th July with the next being at Spurn with three on the 24th August followed by one there on the 29th. Quite widespread though in small numbers by 1st October then a noticeable movement through VC 63 on the 8th and 9th with several locations reporting up to 700 flying to the southwest or west; 1350 southwest over Scammonden on the 12th.

A massive influx; possibly the largest on record, along with other members of this family, occurred between the 18th and 25th October; during a combination of easterly winds and poor visibility along the coast. At Scarborough, 400+ present on the 18th with 700+ on 19th; Filey; 200 on the 18th then 3000 on the 19th decreasing to 80 by the 27th; Flamborough; 13,000 on the 18th, 7000 on 19th, 24,000 on the 20th, 10,000 on 21st then 1500 from the 22nd to the 24th with 3500 on the 27th. 500 at Barmston on the 19th; 1200 at Atwick on 19th with 3500 on the 20th, 4000 on 21st decreasing to 1000 by the 27th; 5500 in the Rolston/Mappleton/Cowden area on 19th, 8500 on 20th, 6500 on 21st then down to 650 by the 26th; 750 at Grimston on 18th with 450 on 19th. Spurn reported 1000 on the 18th then 8850 on 19th with 4500 on the 24th, 700 on 26th and 400 on the 27th. Thousands along the Humber at Skeffling during this period whilst at Sunk Island, 1300 were either grounded or moving northeast on the 20th with 3500 on the 21st, 5500 on 27th and 3000 on the 28th. Inland, during this period, 3350 came from the northeast at Carlton (Barnsley) on the 20th with 1100 southwest at Fairburn Ings the same day. The following day, 3000 flew southwest at Carlton with 2000 at Thrybergh C.P., 2530 at Strines Res., 1300 at Redmires, 5820 at Holdworth, 10,275 at Fairburn Ings, 15,000 west over High Batts N.R. in 45 minutes, 8500 over Staveley, 1160 at Hay-a-Park, 1050 at Nosterfield and 1000 at both Cridling Stubbs and Scargill. On the 22nd, 1000 at Pot Hills, 13,750 at Holdworth and 7700 at Fairburn Ings. 6000 were at Midhopestones on the 27th with 3000 at Langsett whilst 3000 were along the Lower Derwent valley on the 28th.

Large parties in December were 2000 at Tankersley on 26th, 1700 at Broomhill Ings on 28th and 1000 at Fairburn Ings on the 29th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

No comments received concerning breeding status.

Along with other members of this family a large influx occurred in October when, at Spurn, between 100 and 250 were present from the 18th to the 21st then 75 on 22nd and 70 the following day with 40 on the 24th. 210 at Grimston on 18th with 120 on 19th whilst in the Rolston/Mappleton/Cowden area 650 were reported on the 19th, 850 on the 20th with 600 on the 21st decreasing to 80 by the 26th. 250 at Flamborough on the 13th with 6000 on the 18th then 3000 on 19th, 2500 on 20th, 1200 on 21st and up to 300 then until the 27th. 40 to 50 present at Filey between the 18th and 21st. 83 at Sunk Island on the 20th. Only a small influx noted away from the coast during this period.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Peak counts during the early months were 850 at Wentworth on 10th February, 515 at Timble Ings and 500 at Rughton Hall on 31st January with 400 at Wadworth on 28th January. Many locations reporting up to 150 occasionally during this period. The last departing birds were at Fairburn Ings on 1st May, one at Tophill Low Res. on the 28th and one or two birds on four days during the month at Flamborough with the last there on 2nd June.

The first bird of the autumn reported from Spurn on 13th September with two there on the 16th when 74 passed over High Batts N.R.

A massive influx from the 18th with, along the coast, 800+ at Scarborough then 1500+ there on the 19th; 4000 at Filey on the 18th with 5000 on the 19th; 26,000 at Flamborough on the 18th, 6000 on 19th, 14,000 on 20th, 6000 on 21st, 2200 on the 22nd with up to 1500 until the 29th. 4500 at Atwick on the 18th, 6750 on the 19th, 10,000 on the 20th then decreasing to 1500 by the 25th. 5000 in the Rolston/Mappleton/Cowden areas on 18th, 8500 on 19th, 10,500 on 21st then 4500 on 22nd. 1100 at Grimston on 18th with 950 on 19th. 5000+ at Spurn on the 18th, 7000 on 19th, 3500 on 20th, 500 on 21st then 1250 on

22nd with 1000 on the 23rd and 500 on 24th decreasing to 34 by the end of the month. 6920 flew west at Sunk Island on the 7th, a movement which was not noted on the coast but 840 passed west at Redmires (to the west of Sheffield). 3400 at Sunk Island on the 20th with 2050 on the 21st and 250 on 27th.

The large influx was reflected (further) inland though not quite to the same extent as with Fieldfare. On the 21st, 3000 over High Batts N.R. with 1700 over Fairburn Ings, 800 at Midhopestones, 775 west at Holdworth and 600 over Leeds. The following day saw 3370 over Fairburn Ings, 2460 southwest at Holdworth and 665 at Worsbrough. Only small numbers then until 2000 south over Potteric Carr on the 24th.

Few flocks of note during the latter two months; 500 at Pot Hills Marsh on 8th December being the largest reported.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Although scarce in VC 61, would appear to be under recorded there. Definite breeding reported only from Tophill Low Res. though may well have done so at Pulfin Bog and in Hornsea. Peak counts in this VC were 26 at Tophill Low Res. during mid to late August, ten at Pulfin Bog on 11th August with 17 on the 27th, 20 on the 22nd and 15 on 27th. 18 at Flamborough on 29th September after singles on the 16th and 23rd then three on the 30th. 12 at North Duffield on 7th July with seven at Spurn on 19th October.

Unusually early flocks reported from VC 63 with 51 at Wilsic on 12th January and 50 at Scapegoat Hill on 7th February. Frequent flocks of between 30 and 50 during the period July to November with maxima of 50 at Redmires on 12th/13th September and 53 at Midhope on the 16th.

Most records of parties in VC 64 were post breeding with 50 at Gouthwaite Res. on 18th August, 40 at Roeclyffe on 29th August, 40+ at Beckett's Park, Leeds, on 17th September and 40 flying south over Barlow Common 12th August.

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*

Addition to the 1989 Report: the bird at Mappleton on 15th September has been rejected by the BBRC.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella maevia*

The first of the year were singing males at Carlton Marsh and Blacktoft on 19th April then at Kilnsea on the 21st followed by birds at Tophill Low Res., Spurn and Pot Hills Marsh on the 22nd.

During the breeding season 21 singing males were reported at Cowden, in VC 61, with breeding proven at Wheldrake Ings and possibly at Pulfin Bog. 13 singing males at Blacktoft where 11 pairs possibly bred with three pairs at Carlton Marsh with a further four locations in this VC holding at least one pair with singing males at a further three.

Two pairs reported breeding at Barlow Common in VC 64 with birds present at a further five locations whilst in VC 65, singing males were reported at East Witton and Catterick.

Would appear to have had a good breeding season although in the Lower Derwent Valley numbers were said to be stable though the range is contracting into the Wheldrake Ings area.

The last birds of the year were singles at Pugney's C.P. on 14th September, at Winterset Res. on the 22nd and at Castle Hill, Scarborough on the 23rd.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

A male singing at Blacktoft Sands on the evening of 16th May.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

An early bird at Hay-a-Park on 13th April followed by singles at Tophill Low Res. on the 18th, Denaby Ings on the 22nd and Blacktoft on the 24th.

About 75 pairs considered to have bred at Blacktoft which is a slight decline; other locations in VC 63 to report good numbers of breeding pairs/singing males were: Tinsley with 17, Winterset 19, Edderthorpe 21, Broomhill Ings and Potteric Carr with 20 each. In

VC 61, 23/24 pairs at Flamborough, at least 34 pairs holding territory at Pulfin Bog, 32 to 34 pairs at Tophill Low Res., which is thought to be on the conservative side and c80 pairs in the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal areas. The main locations in VC 64 were Fairburn Ings with 39 territories, Mickletown Ings 29, Swillington Ings 16, Hay-a-Park 13 and Staveley 13. Single birds at Chelker Res. on 15th June and at Malham Tarn on 14th September were well away from usual haunts.

Autumn passage everywhere was described as light with the last birds being reported from Spurn and Hay-a-Park on 30th September.

The utilization of Oil Seed Rape fields for breeding, in VC 61, continues to increase.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A further decrease in the number of breeding pairs at Tophill Low Res. with only 13, this being attributed to the drying out of a reed bed. Elsewhere numbers appear to be stable with the species still maintaining a tenuous hold near Scarborough, being the northern limit in the county. No numbers reported from Hornsea Mere, one of the main breeding locations; c400 pairs estimated at Blacktoft though only moderate success owing to cold, wet weather in June. Substantial numbers reported at Haverfield Ponds, in VC 61; 38 pairs along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal area which is an increase on 1989.

The first of the year was at Mickletown Ings on the 26th April then at Blacktoft the following day with the last, in October, at Thorpe Marsh on the 5th, at Filey on the 20th and Spurn on the 13th, 21st and 24th.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea from the 6th to 9th May (AJB:NS *et al*).

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

Single bird at Kilnsea on the 23rd September (NAB:DJB:CPM *et al*). Under consideration by the BBRC.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Singing males at Flamborough on 17th and 20th May. Immatures there on 13th and 17th September. Single bird at Spurn on the 2nd September.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

An adult male trapped at Flamborough on the 16th May was the first record for that location (PAL:JCL:JMP:GAS *et al*). Under consideration by the BBRC.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

A single male on Castle Hill, Scarborough on the 27th October (TME:RNH *et al*) was the second record for Yorkshire.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Singles at Kilnsea on 12th September; at Flamborough on the 13th; Spurn from the 14th to the 16th with a second bird there on the 16th. One on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 30th September with one at Filey on 21st October. Another, or possibly the same bird, at Filey on 3rd November.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

First birds of the year were reported on the 22nd April at Spurn, Filey and Knostrop S.F., then the following day at Fairburn Ings and near Doncaster. Spring passage relatively light with peak counts at Filey with nine on the 6th May and at Flamborough with 12 on the 5th; 15 on the 6th and 12 the following day. Widespread in most areas by mid month with a good breeding season reported from most areas though VC 65 reported birds as exceptionally scarce. In VC 63, more widely reported than in any previous year with a likely increase in breeding numbers in the Doncaster and Barnsley areas; many records from the Sheffield area and an 'unprecedented number' of records from the Bradford area.

Appears to be increasing in the suburban areas around York whilst between ten and 15 pairs bred at Laytham.

Autumn passage light with only Spurn noting more than ten; up to 13 being reported during mid-August. The last birds of the year were at Spurn on 20th October; Flamborough on the 22nd and Filey on the 28th.

Birds considered to belong to one of the eastern races occurred at Flamborough on 13th, 21st and 23rd October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

The first was reported at Poppleton on 19th April then at Knostrop S.F. on the 21st followed by one at Edderthorpe on the 23rd; Shaftholme on the 23rd then Thrybergh C.P. and the Rother Valley C.P. on the 25th. Good spring passage with up to 50 at Flamborough in early May and up to 20 during the latter part of that month. Maximum of 62 at Spurn on the 17th whilst inland, 18 were at Wheldrake Ings on the 4th May, 20 between Hagg Bridge and East Cottingham on the 10th with 25 in the same area on the 23rd.

All reports concerning breeding were good. 'Continues to increase in VC 65 being common around Great Langton and Catterick'. Atlas work in the Leeds area (VC 64) gave 70 singing males with 56 breeding pairs in 19 tetrads of SE43 and 103 singing males with 76+ pairs in 25 tetrads of SE44. In VC 63; very healthy numbers in the Barnsley, Pontefract and Doncaster areas with counts of breeding pairs/singing males as follows: Winterset 39; Edderthorpe Flash 36; Broomhill Ings 38; Thorne Moors 45; Hatfield Moors 40 and Wadworth 24.

Autumn passage light at Flamborough with 18 on 1st September as the peak whilst Spurn had 43 on 3rd August with 23 on the 28th. Reported in late October from Spurn with one present from the 19th to 21st whilst one was at Flamborough on the 19th, two on the 22nd with one the following day.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One at High Batts N.R. on the 22nd April with the next at Askham Bog; Wheldrake Ings and Barlow Common on the 28th then Stocksbridge on the 29th; Lemonroyd S.F. and Sprotborough Flash on the 30th. Most birds arrived during the first two weeks of May with little passage noted; eight at Flamborough on the 13th and 14th being the most reported.

Breeding numbers reported were good, particularly in VC 63 where 41 pairs bred in the Doncaster area; 20 at Winterset; 17 near Huddersfield with 18 singing males around Worsbrough at the end of May. Over 50 locations in the Leeds area held birds with breeding occurring at most whilst in VC 61, a further increase in breeding pairs was reported from Tophill Low Res. with nine; at least ten singing birds at Bielby though few birds in the York area with none reported after 8th June.

Autumn passage very poor along the coast with maxima of six at Spurn and five at Flamborough. Late birds reported in October at Flamborough with two on the 19th when two were also at Spurn; one at the latter on the 22nd with one present at Filey from the 17th to the 27th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Birds were reported during the period January to mid-March from three locations in VC 61; two in VC 62; seven in VC 63 and from eight in VC 64. One at Broomhill Ings on 27th March was considered to be a new arrival whilst one at Blackburn Meadows, Sheffield on 14th March may have been. By the second week of April, birds were widespread in most areas though a little later along the coast. Passage light with maxima at Flamborough of 15 on 6th May then 20 on 7th, 14 on 12th, 15 on 13th and 14 on 22nd. Four at Spurn being the peak there with 11 at Filey on the 6th.

Considered to have had a good breeding season though few comments received.

Light autumn passage until 19th October when 11 were at Filey with 13 on 27th; 41 at Flamborough on the 19th then 46 on 20th, 40 on 21st decreasing thereafter with 20 on 22nd, 15 on 23rd and ten on the 24th.

Reported between mid-November and the year's end at two locations in VC 61; four in VC 63 and five in VC 64.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One at Filey, near the Country Park from 25th to 29th August (HJW *et al*) with another at Port Mulgrave on 9th September (MRKA:IB *et al*). The Filey bird being still under consideration by the BBRC.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Addition to the 1989 Report: one at Barmston on 1st October (PP). Still under consideration by the BBRC.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Single birds at Grimston (TI) and at Scarborough on 18th October (RHA) with three at Filey on the 19th, one of which remained until the 23rd (PJD:RSB:PMS:ISW:DJS *et al*). One at Flamborough on 20th (ASB:VAL), one at Kilnsea the same day (ASB:VAL) with one at Spurn on the 21st (BRS *et al*) then one at Filey on the 28th and 29th November. (SC:PJD)

The birds at Flamborough, Grimston and Spurn are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Reported from Scarborough on 29th September, 17th, 19th and 20th October. At Filey, four birds with one on three occasions between 23rd and 29th September, another on 25th and 27th September, one on 12th October and the last on the 27th. Flamborough had single birds on 13th, 16th and 17th September with three on the 23rd, four on the 24th, seven on the 25th then four on the 26th with two on 27th, 28th and 29th and one on the 30th. One on 1st October, two on 13th, four on 14th and 15th with three on the 16th then singles on the 21st and 22nd. One at Aldbrough from the 10th to 14th November; one at Kilnsea on 25th and 26th September whilst at Spurn, one on the 11th and 12th, another from the 12th to 14th, two on the 16th with one present the following day and on the 18th. One there on 2nd October with two on the 7th and another on the 8th.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

Single birds at Flamborough on 13th October (VAL:PAL:JMP); 21st (PAL) and the 27th (PAL:JCL:PJW:DIMW). All are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatu*s

Single at Filey on 20th October (CCT *et al*); one at Flamborough on the 20th with two the following day (PAL:DIMW:JCL:MN:PJW). One at Easington on the 23rd (DH:CS). The Flamborough birds are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

Addition to the 1989 Report: one at Filey on the 13th September (JMT). Still under consideration by the BBRC.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

A rather mixed year concerning breeding, VC 63 stating 'apparently good numbers breeding in the favourite well-wooded Pennine cloughs'. VC 64, 'fewer reports than usual from both the Harrogate and Leeds areas with no proven breeding (in those areas) for the first time in many years'. 23+ pairs present in spring elsewhere with most breeding. 25 pairs in the stronghold of VC 65 around Richmond with breeding also reported in Costerdale.

The first of the year was reported on 25th April at Ripon with one at Ewden on the 27th, one at Holmbridge on the 28th when five were at Hardcastle Crags and six at Grimsworth Dean, thereafter, many records becoming quite widespread by the second week of May.

As usual fewer records in autumn than in spring with late birds at Knotford Nook on 11th September; Spurn on the 18th and at Timble Ings on the 23rd.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Reported during January and February from four locations in VC 61, one in VC 62 and seven in VC 64. One at Thrybergh Banks on 23rd February was thought to have been a migrant rather than an overwintering bird. In March, one at Sheffield on the 6th then two at Old Denaby on the 8th followed by records from many locations in the Sheffield area between the 12th and the 19th. In VC 61, the first was at Filey on the 9th whilst in VC 64, the first was not reported until the 15th. Passage in spring was light with maxima of ten at Spurn on the 21st April on which day 19 were present at Flamborough.

Comments on the breeding status received were 'normal' in VC 64 whilst in VC 63 there was 'a marked increase in breeding numbers at some Barnsley locations', 'good breeding numbers' in the Doncaster area and 'a slight increase' in the Sheffield area.

Autumn passage light with 38 at Flamborough on 20th and 21st October being the highest counts reported. Reported from several coastal locations in November with one or two at 11 locations inland in VC 63. Single birds in December at five locations in VC 61; two in VC 62 and two in VC 63.

Many of the individuals at Flamborough in October were considered to belong to the northern race *P.c. abietinus* whilst single birds at Blacktoft on 24th October and at Winterset on 25th November were also thought to have been of that race. Others thought to be of the race *P.c. tristis* were at Flamborough on 13th 15th October with two on the 18th, five on 19th, three on the 20th, 21st, 22nd and two on the 27th plus one on the 9th November. One at Filey on 15th January was considered to be of this race as were birds at Wincobank on 29th/30th March; at Blacktoft on 24th October and Fairburn Ings on 16th December

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One at Rougemont, Leeds on the 18th March constitutes the earliest ever arrival in Yorkshire. This was followed by other March birds at Mickletown Ings on the 24th, Fairburn Ings on 25th, Pot Hills Marsh on the 27th, Hornsea on 28th and at Harthill Res. on the 31st.

Spring passage, which peaked along the coast, during late April/early May, was normal though a high maximum count of 120 was reported from Flamborough on 7th May. Inland this peak was a little earlier with 70 being present at Fairburn Ings on 26th April.

80 pairs on Hatfield Moors was described as 'a drastic decline' and attributed to habitat change. No other comments on breeding status were received thus considered to be unchanged over the remainder of the county.

In autumn, over 200 were present at Fairburn Ings on 20th July with up to 70 there during the first half of August whilst maxima along the coast were 64 at Spurn on 12th August with 60 at Flamborough on the 26th and 85 there on 1st September. Most birds had departed by the end of September though small numbers lingered into October particularly along the coast. The last reported inland were at Roundhay, Leeds on the 7th, Barlow Common on the 8th, Thrybergh C.P. on the 13th and Willow Garth on the 14th whilst on the coast, birds were reported at Spurn on the 24th, Flamborough on the 27th and at both Flamborough and Filey on the 28th.

A bird trapped at Tickhill on 18th June had been ringed in Lothian on 19th July 1980 and, at the time of recovery, constituted the oldest British ringed bird.

Individuals considered to belong to the race *P.c. acredula* were reported at Flamborough on the 26th and 30th April, on seven dates in May with ten on the 7th, on 3rd June then two on the 1st September.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Breeding populations would appear to be unchanged though the small population at Tophill Low Res. was reported as flourishing.

Only small parties in the early months in all areas; spring passage along the coast reported as light with maxima at Spurn of 47 on 17th March and 84 at Flamborough on 31st.

An influx of 200+ at Tophill Low Res. on 4th October was not noted at any other location. On 18th October a massive influx occurred along the coast in company with the thrushes. 350+ were on Castle Hill, Scarborough on the 18th with 400+ the following day. Filey had 100 on the 18th, 200 on 19th, 400 on the 20th then 800, 300 and 200 on the next three days. 750 at Flamborough on the 18th then to the 23rd counts of 1500, 2000, at least 5000, 2000 then 800 with 400 present until the 28th. Barmston reported 150 on 19th and 20th with 250 on the 21st. At Atwick, 500 on the 19th increasing to 2000+ by the 21st decreasing, thereafter, to 500 by the 27th. 400 at Mappleton/Cowden on the 19th, 1000 there on 21st then down to less than 100 by the 24th whilst at Grimston, 120 were recorded on the 18th, 205 on the 19th, 300 on the 20th with 200 on 21st. 1800 at Spurn on the 18th, 1000 on 19th, 2000 on the 20th and 21st with 600 on the 22nd decreasing to 500 on the 23rd and 24th then 250 on 25th and 200 on the 26th and 27th. This influx was not reflected inland except in VC 63 where, it was stated, an obvious influx occurred during this period. At Atwick, for instance, the birds of the 19th were along the cliffs with no hint of birds at the western end of the village (1200 yards inland) until the 22nd when 550 were counted in two hours moving along one hedgerow; only 40 were seen in one hour near the cliffs that day. After this influx dispersed only small numbers were reported from all locations.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

During the early months, single birds were at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough where the individual first reported on 2nd December 1989 remained until 15th February; at Flamborough on 15th March, 26th and 30th April/1st May; at Grimston on 9th/10th April and Kilsea on 17th/18th March whilst Spurn had birds on 11th and 17th March.

Inland, one present in the Blackburn area of Sheffield from 21st January to 10th March.

Slightly more records during the latter months associated mainly with the influx of thrushes and Goldcrests. One at Filey on 17th October remaining until the 19th with a second bird present on the 18th; another there on the 23rd with one on the 30th November. Singles at Flamborough during October, on 7th, 13th, 24th, 26th and 28th with two on both the 25th and 27th. One at Atwick on 21st; at Hornsea Mere on the 8th; Kilsea on the 24th and 28th with birds at Spurn on 23rd, 26th and 27th October, 1st and 10th November. One trapped in Kilsea on 29th October was carrying a Dutch ring (no further details) being released at Spurn where it remained until 1st November.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The first of the year to arrive were at Wormersley on 3rd May followed by singles at Elland, Nunnington and Lemonroyd on the 4th then Bessacarr, Fairburn Ings and Flaxby on the 6th. Generally rather late in arriving with only light spring passage reported, maxima being eight at Flamborough on 23rd May and six at Spurn on the same date.

Conflicting accounts of breeding status were received with good numbers in the Leeds area owing to concerted efforts being made in conjunction with Atlas work whilst in VC 63 considered to be a little below average. Few at Tophill Low Res. where disquiet was voiced; the usual sites there being unoccupied.

Autumn passage also light with maxima at Flamborough of eight on 1st September whilst no more than two were recorded at Spurn on any one day. Few were reported after the third week of September with late birds at Spurn on 2nd and 13th October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Fidicula parva*

Singles at Flamborough on 26th August and 17th September with another, in full summer plumage, trapped there on 24th and 25th October. A female on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 2nd October.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A single bird at Skeffing on 20th April was the first to be reported followed by birds at Haworth Spring Wood (VC 64) on the 23rd and at Flamborough on the 26th. Little passage noted in spring along the coast with no more than two birds on any one day at all locations.

From comments received it would appear to be increasing and expanding its range as a breeding species. In VC 63, stated as 'continues a slow expansion in the Huddersfield, Barnsley and Sheffield areas though little information received from west of Halifax'. 'A further range expansion in Wensleydale' (VC 65), whilst in VC 64 bred at Adel Dam – the first breeding in the Leeds area since 1963. Other breeding records received from VC 64 were, 11 pairs in the Harrogate area (plus a further ten singing males); 22 pairs in Strid Woods; 14 pairs at Folly Hall; nine pairs at Dab Park; three at Haworth Spring Wood and one each at Thruscross Res., Hekens Ghyll and in Ilkley.

Autumn passage light with the peak on 28th August when seven were at Filey; 14 at Flamborough and 12 at Spurn. 13 were reported from Flamborough the following day.

Late birds were reported on 13th October with two at both Spurn and Flamborough, one at the latter location the following day and one at Filey on the 18th.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Yet another mild winter resulted in good numbers being present at Blacktoft during the early months with about 200 being reported during January and February. Returning birds in March and April swelled the numbers with an estimated 100 pairs thought to have bred. The first broods produced good numbers though owing to poor weather in June, the second broods suffered whilst the third had mixed success. An estimated 1000 young were reared. Irruptions were noted from 14th September which increased in intensity in October with up to 300 birds high flying on some days. During December up to 200 were feeding in reedbeds along the River Trent.

In view of the numbers at Blacktoft, very few were seen elsewhere; four at Saltend on 14th October; six at Sunk Island flying west on 25th November whilst a single bird was at Hornsea Mere in both January and September with two during October.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Numbers reported during the early months indicated good survival rates due to the mild winter. Up to 100 were at Pot Hills Marsh, Upton, during this period with 70 at Tophill Low Res. on 20th January; 65 in Woolley Woods on 3rd February with many parties of between 20 and 40 reported.

Although no specific comments, post breeding flocks indicated good success during the summer. A very early breeding record concerned a pair with fledged young at Bishop Monkton on 17th March.

Flocks in autumn were large with 60 in Howell Woods on 23rd July; 56 in Woolley Woods on 14th December; up to 100 at Pot Hills Marsh in December; 80 at Fairburn Ings in October; 80 at Spa Gill on 9th September; 60 at Swinsty Res. on 27th whilst at Tophill Low Res., 76 were present on 7th October with over 100 on the 21st and 78 on 17th November.

Some indication of passage was noted along the coast with 13 at Spurn on 8th October; 22 at Flamborough on 27th September with, in October, 23 on 1st, 22 on 8th, 25 on 14th and 35 on the 28th. At Sunk Island, 20 were reported on 20th October with 26 the following day.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Although considered to be unchanged in status, Breeding Atlas work in the Leeds area brought more records than usual; this being thought to be an extension in knowledge rather than in numbers.

Scarce in VC 61 with, as in 1989, the only confirmed breeding record coming from Nunburnholme though small numbers were present throughout the year at nearby Warter and near Pocklington. One or two birds present in Primrose Valley (Hunmanby) at both

ends of the year and occasionally at Skipwith Common, Bielby, Wheldrake Ings and Settrington.

Bred in VC 62 at Hawaby; Thornton Ellars and possibly at Yearsby and New Earswick though considered to be under reported. 10+ were at Pond Head (near Yearsby) on 18th November. Scarce in VC 63 with 'a few pairs' breeding at Roche Abbey and possible breeding occurring at Wilsic and Anston Stones Wood. In VC 64, 20 breeding pairs were found at 16 locations in the Leeds area as a result of more complete coverage than usual. Eight at High Batts N.R. on 26th August. No change in status in VC 65 where this species is much more common than Willow Tit.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Bred at Tophill Low Res., in VC 61, for the first time in several years; at Staxton Wold and along the Lower Derwent/Pocklington Canal with pairs present at Bielby and Allertorpe Common. In VC 62, bred near Brandsby and on Strensall Common. 20 pairs bred on Hatfield Moors (VC 63) though this is described as a reduced population – peat extraction being cited as the reason. 11 pairs bred in each of the Doncaster and Barnsley areas; five in the Huddersfield area and, although present in the Bradford and Halifax areas, not confirmed as breeding there. A few pairs in the Wakefield, Pontefract and Sheffield areas.

In VC 64, reported at 42 locations in the Leeds area with proven breeding at 15 and probably doing so at a further 20. Stated as declining at both Swillington Ings and Mickletown Ings whilst in the Harrogate area was only recorded at 12 locations. Outside the breeding season, ten at Fairburn Ings was the peak count. Significantly scarcer in VC 65 than Marsh Tit being recorded from only three locations but considered however to be under recorded.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Bred at Burnby and Wheldrake, in VC 61, possibly doing so at Tophill Low Res. and at Hornsea. In VC 62, bred at Yearsley and Sutton-on-Derwent though thought to be grossly under reported. Little of significance in VC 63 though a record breeding season count of 32 in Woolley Woods on 13th April. No change in status reported from VC 64 where peak counts were 33 at Eccup Res. on 30th July, 25+ at Otley Chevin and 25 at Spa Gill on 9th January.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

No apparent change in status. 225 were counted in Woolley Woods on 13th April with 152 there on 14th December; 200+ at Beckett's Park, Leeds on 30th July and 120+ on 14th January. 68 pairs bred in nest boxes at Eccup Res. rearing 577 young. A poor year for passage birds at Flamborough with 100 on 23rd September being the only count of note but 150+ were present on Castle Hill, Scarborough on 18th October decreasing to 60+ the following day.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Status apparently unchanged but very high counts were reported from Woolley Woods with 424 on 3rd February; 230, mainly in pairs, on 30th March and 78 on 14th December. Other peak counts recorded were 50+ at Eccup Res. on 30th July and 30+ at both Beckett's Park, Leeds on 14th January and at Castle Howard on 9th December.

As with Blue Tit, little passage noted along the coast with 30 at Flamborough on 23rd September being the only record of any number.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Bred in VC 61 at Wheldrake and Escrick with three pairs on Warter Estate. A single bird at Atwick on 29th July was unusual. In VC 62, considered to be under reported with breeding occurring at Brandsby; Acomb and Poppleton. Stated to be doing well in VC 63, increasing north of Sheffield and in the Barnsley area with the highest level reported in the Doncaster area for about 25 years where some 16 pairs bred. 12 were in the Porter Valley,

Sheffield, on 7th January with two pairs in the Ewden Valley. Three pairs bred at Stainborough with two perhaps three pairs near Huddersfield.

26 pairs bred at 18 locations in the Leeds area and probably at a further six. Up to six birds at three different locations near Leeds and eight in Strid Woods on 31st March. Remains common, if localised, in parts of VC 65 with a particularly high density in Richmond area.

Tree Creeper *Certhia familiaris*

From the comments received there would appear to be no change in breeding status. 26 were counted in Woolley Woods on 3rd February being a record number at that location. A bird trapped at Flamborough on 13th October was, on biometrics, considered to belong to the nominate race.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

A male seen singing at Tophill Low Res. on 9th May whilst another was heard there on 13th June (TR:SAT). A male flew east at Sunk Island on 12th May with a female to the east there on the 20th. A female in Graves Park (VC 63) on 9th June. One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea, on 10th June was probably one of the two birds seen near the church there that same day and again on the 11th.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

One at Kilnsea on 19th May with birds at several locations on the 20th when three were at Flamborough, two at Filey, one at Robin Hood's Bay and one inland at Tophill Low Res. One at Flamborough on 21st with five there on the 22nd; one of the Filey birds (a male) remaining until this date. One at Flamborough on the 23rd. Singles then at Spurn on 26th May and 6th June; at Scarborough on the 4th June and Blacktoft on 22nd July.

One, a first winter bird, at Fairburn Ings on 27th October.

A female trapped at Flamborough on 22nd May had been ringed in Denmark (no further details).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Two at Flamborough on 20th October, one of which remained until the 25th, with two at Spurn on the 20th, three on 21st and two again on the 22nd. All other records concerned single birds being reported from Hollingdale Plantation on 13th/14th January; at Normanton from 7th to 12th February; near Coxwold from 31st March to 2nd April; at Barrow Pit Tip from 13th to 24th April and at Filey from 20th to 25th April.

During the latter months, at Filey on 20th October and at Sunk Island the same day; at Castle Hill, Scarborough from the 19th to 21st; Kilnsea on the 29th then at Brimham Rocks on 11th November; near Denton from 21st November to 1st December and at Bretton Park on 2nd/3rd December.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Singles at Flamborough on 5th May (MN:PJW); at Filey on 25th May (PJD); at Spurn on 29th May being present the following day (RG *et al*) and, at Filey, on 27th August (DB:PJD:REH *et al*). The Flamborough bird is still under consideration by the BBRC.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A single bird at Flamborough on 27th May was the only record received from the eastern part of VC 61 though thought still to be present at Hornsea Mere and Rise Park. Bred in this VC in the York area. Comments on breeding status received were, from VC 64, 'probably increasing in the Leeds area' and in VC 63, 'seems to be flourishing in all areas except Hatfield Moor where the population is said to be greatly reduced owing to habitat destruction'. No figures were given however.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A slow increase still taking place in VC 61 with 34 at Filey during April being the largest gathering reported.

In VC 63, parties of between 50 and 70 were reported from five locations early in the year and from three locations towards the end of the year. Larger gatherings were 270 at Potteric Carr on 1st November (the largest ever recorded in Yorkshire); 120 at Broomhill Ings on 2nd February; 119 at Winterset on 11th February; 120 present in Woolley Woods (several parties) on 27th January and 86 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st January. Status considered not to have changed in VC 64 where the largest roost was 120 in Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds, during November and December.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

No apparent change in status. The largest gatherings reported were 1500 near Tophill Low Res. on 21st January and a similar number at Scorton Quarry on 7th August. 1000 at Barmston during October. 80 at Flamborough in late October and 50 at Spurn on the 25th would probably refer to migrant birds.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

A three per cent decline reported from the Sheffield area and less than one per cent decline in Holderness, since 1985, though in the latter area the number of rookeries had increased by 25 per cent. An enormous flock of 1000 corvids at Tophill Low Res. on 17th January was composed mainly of this species; 3000 there on 21st with 2000 on the 18th September and 2500 on 30th November.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Comments received would indicate no change in status. The largest gatherings reported were, in VC 61, 40 at Settrington on 12th August with 150 at Flamborough in late October/early November and 66 at Sunk Island on 18th October were migrants. In VC 62, 44 at Scalby Manor, Scarborough on 12th October whilst in VC 63, 150+ at Black Carr Woods, Bradford on 17th April with 100 at each of Elland G.P. in April; at Thorne Moors in autumn and Hatfield Moors on 7th October. 120 at Swillington Ings during December was the largest count in VC 64.

Individuals of the race *C.c. cornix* (Hooded Crow) are scarce nowadays with none at Flamborough for the first time in almost 40 years. Singles at Filey on 2nd June, 22nd and 24th December; at Holmpton on 20th January; at Spurn on 9th, 15th, 27th and 28th April, 3rd May, 25th and 27th October. In VC 63, at Digley on 2nd July; Blacktoft on 24th October and at Low Moor Tip from 1st to 31st December. In VC 64, one to the west over Fairburn Ings on 31st October and in VC 65, one at Cleasby on 2nd November.

Raven *Corvus corax*

In VC 64, up to seven were in the Malham Tarn area from January until 6th May then up to four from 10th July to 2nd December. Single birds at Pot Moor on 27th January; Whernside on 25th March; Pen-y-Ghent on 6th April; Hawkswith on 21st April and Buckden Pike on 25th November. Birds were seen in Upper Nidderdale in April, May and June.

In VC 65, a pair at Gunnerside Ghyll on 6th May; pair at Langthwaite on 29th May and a pair at Summer Lodge Tarn on 10th June.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

No change in status. The only roosts of any note were 15,000 at Scorton Quarry in November and a similar number at Oakenshaw in early September. Large roosts still exist in Bradford, Huddersfield and Doncaster. Light southerly passage at Spurn and westerly along the Humber at Sunk Island noted in late October.

White-cheeked Starling *Spodiopsar cineraceus*

An immature at Flamborough from 17th to 19th May (JCL:PAL:JMP:SR:PJW:GAS).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

No apparent change in status with the largest flocks reported being 500 at Thrybergh C.P. on 31st July increasing to 1150 on 17th August. 400 at Filey in September whilst 200, in one flock, to the east of Kilnsea Church was considered exceptional for that area.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Flamborough commented that there were signs of an increase over the past few years. A definite increase in the Bradford and Harrogate areas whilst in the Leeds area an increase was also noted which was attributable mainly, but not entirely, to the Breeding Atlas surveys. In VC 63, however, populations remain lower than in the 1970s.

The largest gatherings reported in VC 61 were 141 at Flamborough on 6th December, 100 at Filey in mid-January and 100+ at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd April. 50 at Burniston, in VC 62, on 31st October with in VC 63, the only party to exceed 60 was of 200 at Beal on 16th February and in VC 64, 100+ at two locations in the Leeds area during the early months.

Light southerly passage noted at Spurn during autumn with 91 on 4th October as maximum whilst along the Humber at Sunk Island, 114 flew west on 13th October.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

One in Kilnsea on 30th September was trapped and released at Spurn Bird Observatory where it was seen early on 1st October (AD:BRS *et al.*). The first record for Yorkshire.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

No change in status reported. Flock sizes, however, were not large in either winters owing to the mild weather. Maxima recorded were 200 at High Batts N.R. during January; 200 at Skipwith Common on 23rd January; 200+ at Midhope on 4th February and 225 at Redmires on 18th March whilst during the latter months, 500 at North Duffield on 1st December; 250 at Gouthwaite on 22nd September and 180 at Stainborough on 25th December.

An influx was noted during the October thrush fall with 100 to 130 at Flamborough during this period; 200 at Spurn on 13th and 30+ on Scarborough Castle Hill on the 19th.

Only light southerly passage at Spurn noted with 125 on 2nd April as the only count of note, whilst light easterly passage was recorded along the Humber at Sunk Island in October with 137 on 13th and 187 on 21st.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Quite well distributed during the early months though flocks generally were small. In VC 61, 50 wintered at Nunburnholme, otherwise no more than 15 were reported anywhere. Very few in VC 62 whilst in VC 63, over 100 were at Keighley during January, 95 at Redmires on 10th March and 150 at Bingley on 17th April. 70 in Beckett's Park, Leeds, in January with 50 there in March being by far the highest numbers reported in VC 64 whilst 60 near Richmond was the only party of more than ten reported from VC 65.

Slightly more widespread and numerous during the latter months associated along the coast with the October fall when Spurn had 105 on 13th with 65 on the 18th; 28 at Grimston on the 18th, 27 on 19th, 73 at Atwick on the 19th with 43 on 21st; at Flamborough, 50 on 13th, 110 on 18th, 90 on 19th, 140 on 20th and 80 on the 21st. 40 at Filey on 20th; 32 on Castle Hill, Scarborough on the 18th, with 120+ on the 19th. 80 flew south at Spurn on the 20th with 40 east on that day at Sunk Island.

Inland, 120+ near Hovingham from 16th to 18th November; 40 in the Ughill/Strines area from 17th November to the end of the year. 100+ near Blubberhouses on 24th November with 50 at Midhope the same day; up to 20 being reported from a further six locations in VC 64.

The last spring bird was at Flamborough on 20th May with the first returning birds being two there on 25th September and three at Spurn on the same day.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

A singing male at Arncliffe from 20th May to about 4th June (KM *et al*). One north at Spurn on 10th August.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Few large flocks during the early months, the maxima being 300 at Bank Island (Wheldrake) on 16th March; 200 at Barmston on 20th February; 150 at High Batts N.R. during January; 118 at Esholt S.F. on 11th January with 180 at Thornton Steward on 20th January and 220 at Little Langton on 22nd March.

Slightly more flocks during the latter months with 150 at Filey on 11th October increasing to 600 on the 21st, rapidly decreasing in numbers thereafter. 290 near Tophill Low Res. between the 16th and 23rd September was described as exceptional. 300 at North Duffield on 1st December with 400 near Selby on the same day. In VC 63, flocks of 300 were at Wentbridge; Barnsdale Bar and Worsbrough during August and September whilst out of a mixed flock of 1000+ finches along Wormersley Road, Pontefract on 29th September, the majority were of this species. 200 at Shadwell, Leeds, on 18th November with 200 at High Batts N.R. on 2nd December and 250 at Staveley on 1st September.

Southerly passage at Spurn peaked in late October with 544 on the 24th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

As with the previous year only small flocks during the early months owing to the mild weather; the largest gatherings being of 25 to 30. Very light passage only noted in spring with maxima of 35 on several days in April and May at Flamborough whilst at Spurn, 87 on 29th April and 40 on 16th May.

Breeding status apparently unchanged with no comments received.

Gatherings in autumn were quite large and widespread with, in VC 63, 250 at Broomhill on 14th September; 130 at Pugneys C.P. on 29th August; 80 each at Concord Park (Sheffield) on 15th September and at Royd Moor on the 23rd. In VC 64, 110 were in West Park, Leeds, on 25th September with 90 at Bishop Monkton Ings on 2nd and 65 at Fairburn Ings on 15th. VC 61 reported 120+ at Wheldrake on 24th September; 200 at Thixendale on 30th and 100 at Tophill Low Res. on the 23rd. Along the coast, Flamborough recorded 250 on 26th August with 150 on the 27th then, in September, 350 on the 1st, 150 on the 8th, 200 on 14th and 250 on the 29th. 195 present on 1st October, 200 on the 14th with 100 on the 15th. 100 at Filey Dams on 15th September whilst at Spurn, up to 60 during late September and early October with southerly passage also during this period which peaked at 480 on 27th September and 1410 on 4th October. 99 flew east along the Humber at Sunk Island on 13th October.

Siskin *Carduelis spirus*

The only definite breeding records received were from four locations in the southwest of VC 63 with small numbers being involved at each site. Breeding possibly occurred at a fifth location in that VC and possibly also at Bolton Abbey in VC 64. No records were received from either VC 62 or VC 65.

Large parties recorded during the early months were 120 at Askham Bog on 2nd January rising to 160 by 4th February; 140 in Bretton Park on 26th January with 120 at High Batts N.R. on 28th with 100+ at Wyming Brook on the 26th; 100+ at Keswick Fitts on 24th and 100 at Darley on the 7th.

Similarly sized parties were reported during the latter months with 140 at Ampleforth on 21st October; 100 on Yearsley Moor on 21st October; 150 in Howell Wood during December; 200 in the Scar Valley on 23rd December; 150 at Thruscross on 2nd December and 100 at Wath on 17th November. Parties in VC 61 were smaller with maxima of 70 at Melbourne on 14th December and 60+ near Bielby the following day.

Coastal passage noted at Flamborough and Spurn, with, at the former, 55 on 14th October, 85 on 21st, 46 on 22nd, 70 on the 24th and 134 on the 27th whilst the latter reported 90 on the 10th, 107 on 30th and 729 on the 31st. This last count being a record for Spurn and the highest daily total ever recorded in Yorkshire.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Stated to have been a good breeding season in VC 64 but regrettably, in VC 63, only ten to 15 pairs now breed on Hatfield Moors where formerly 200+ bred.

Only small flocks reported during the early months with only slight spring passage noted; maxima along the coast being 258 south at Spurn on 14th April and up to 150 at Flamborough during the latter half of that month. Inland, 100 at Rougemont on 6th April was the largest gathering reported.

Larger flocks recorded during the latter months with, in VC 61, 400 at Barmston on 9th September and 300 there on 3rd October; 200 at Tophill Low Res. on 7th September whilst 200–300 were present nearby during the latter half of that month. Up to 300 during August/September at Blacktoft, in VC 63; at one location near Huddersfield and at five in the Pontefract area. 600 at Winterset on 14th August decreasing to 300 by the 20th September and 450 at Thrybergh C.P. from late August into mid-September. In VC 64, 300 at High Batts N.R. on 30th September with flocks of up to 250 occasionally at Fairburn Ings; Knostrop S.F. and at Bardsey, Leeds. The largest party reported in VC 65 being 200 at Scorton Quarry on 24th July.

Southerly passage at Spurn in autumn peaked at 1600 on 27th September and 2840 on 4th November whilst Flamborough had up to 400 during late September with similar numbers at Filey. 432 flew east at Sunk Island, on the Humber, on 13th October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Comments on breeding received were 'no change' in VC 65 whilst populations on the south Pennine moorlands of VC 63 are still thought to remain below average, one pair bred on Hatfield Moors. In VC 64, breeding was only reported from the vicinity of Malham Tarn.

Very few reported during the early months with light spring passage through the lowlands of VC 64, usually two to five birds usually being reported but 22 at Swillington Ings on 7th April. In VC 63, 53 near Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26th and 28th March with 52 near Booth Wood Dam on 12th April.

Post breeding parties were slightly larger with 100 near Malham Tarn on 13th September; 70 on Norland Moor on 10th September; 60 on Slaithwaite Moor on 26th August whilst 30 were regularly present at Windy Hill (near Reeth) from 11th September to 17th October and 15 at Duck Street Quarry on 12th August.

Coastal parties reported were 30 at Burniston on 11th November; 35 at Flamborough on 15th with 35 on 16th; 30 on 21st October and 40 on 1st November. c100 at Barmston on 16th December whilst southerly passage was noted at Spurn with a peak of 25 on 15th October and at Barmston with 27 on the 11th. 47 on the Humber shore between Stone Creek and Patrington Haven on 9th December.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Normal breeding numbers at Tophill Low Res. after the poor year in 1989 otherwise no comments from VC 61. The only other comments received were from VC 64 where few were reported though not considered to be a true reflection of the whole VC, but Breeding Atlas work near Leeds revealed only eight breeding locations.

Small numbers only reported from VC 61 with 39 at Skipwith Common on 10th November and 40 at Melbourne, on 22nd December being the only gatherings away from Spurn where 27 were present on 23rd September and 50 on 1st October. 50 in Bransdale on 31st March was the highest count from VC 62 whilst in VC 63, in the early months, up to 80 were at Potteric Carr in February; 70 in Grenoside Wood during the same month; 52 at Worsbrough on 13th April and 70 flew southwest over Meltham on 29th April. Slightly more records during the latter months with 70 at Winterset Res. and 45 in Haw Park on 2nd December; 100+ in Howell Wood in December; 50+ at both St Ives, Bingley and Dore in December and 120 to the southwest at Strines on 1st October.

VC 64 also reported small flocks, none exceeding 40, in the early months excepting 150 at Thornthwaite on 20th January and 60 at Sturge's Pond on 15th January whilst 100 at Eccup Res. on 11th October was the only gathering of over 50 during the latter months.

Birds which were considered to be of the race *C.f. flammea* (Mealy Redpoll) were more widespread than last year, most being associated with the October influx of thrushes. Flamborough had 15 on 18th October, 17 on 19th followed by six on the 20th and four on the 21st. Five were present there on 1st November whilst one to three were reported on a further five days during late October/early November. Eight were on Castle Hill, Scarborough on the 26th October with two at Filey on 19th/20th and, at Spurn, two on the 18th, three on the 19th/20th with 14 which flew south there on the 31st were thought to have been of this race. Inland, two at Midhope on 8th April and singles at Potteric Carr on 18th January; High Batts N.R. on 21st January; Blacktoft on 5th November; Fairburn Ings on 6th and 8th November and finally at Skipwith Common on 16th December.

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*

One at Filey on 19th and 20th October, being trapped on the latter date (REH:HJW *et al.*). One at Spurn on 3rd November (DJB *et al.*) and one at Grimston on 8th and 9th December (TI). All records are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*

A male near the Bridestones (Dalby Forest) on 3rd December (WFC:JP).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

The only proven breeding records came from VC 63 with birds at three locations in the southwest; in VC 64, two pairs with young at Beamsley where it is assumed breeding had occurred, apparently having done so for several years now and, in VC 65, at Feldom Ranges.

With the exception of two birds at Eccup Res. on 21st January, no birds (breeding areas excepted) were reported until early/mid-June when one to four were reported from several locations both along the coast and inland. Larger parties were recorded from the third week of June onwards with 17 at Midhope and 40 at Lindley Moor on the 17th; 45 in the Langsett/Midhope area on the 20th contained many juveniles whilst on this same date, 50 were at Ewden with 68 there on the 30th. 12 at Grimston on the 19th with 13 on the 21st; 12 at Scarborough on the 23rd; 15 at Timble Ings on the 24th; 32 at Wintersett on the 25th and 14 at Tophill Low Res. on the 26th.

In July; 50 in the Redmires area from the latter part of the month remaining to mid-September whilst in August 50+ flew south at Spurn on the 7th; 13 were at Flamborough on the 25th whilst 17 were at that location the following day when 34 were reported from Spurn and 300 present near Strines.

Widespread in September with 85 at the Bridestones (Dalby Forest) on 16th with 150+ there the following day; 100 at Ewden on the 6th; 120 at Strines on the 29th and up to 25 at a further ten locations. A similar picture in October when 200 were near Strines on the 20th; 70 at Agden on the 13th; up to 30 at Scar House present to the 23rd; 25 at Flamborough on 19th with 35 on the 20th; 44 at High Batts N.R. on the 19th and 38 at Bramham on the 31st. 67 flew south at Spurn on the 19th.

Not quite so widespread in November with c50 at Swinsty Res. during the early part of the month; 40 in the Langsett/Midhope area on the 13th and 37 near Bingley on the 5th. 40+ in Dalby Forest in early December; 30 near Pickering on the 1st; 40 to 50 during this month at Ewden whilst up to 30 were still in the Langsett/Midhope area. 50+ at Castle Howard on 1st with 112 at Yearsley on the 2nd.

Up to five at Malham Tarn from 13th July to 2nd November was considered an unusual occurrence.

Addition to the 1989 Report: family party in Harrington High Wood on 25th April.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

A male and female on Gas Platform 47/8A, some 20 miles east of Easington, on 19th October (AFJ) and two males at Hollingdale Plantation on 4th November (DH:TR).

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrurus*

A male singing at Spurn on 1st and 2nd July and a first year bird there on 16th September were the only records.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

The only confirmed breeding in VC 61 occurred at Escrick; this species, though scarce in VC 61 is obviously under recorded. Bred at York Water Works and Brandsby in VC 62 whilst from VC 63 the only comment was 'yet another species showing reduced breeding numbers on Hatfield Moors'. No apparent change in status in either VC 64 or 65.

Numbers in VC 61 low with maxima reported being 11 at Fulford Ings on 31st October, nine at Wheldrake Ings on 27th October with up to eight at Flamborough during the winter months and eight on Skipwith Common on 10th November

Higher counts in VC 63 with 32 at Potteric Carr on 14th January; 22 in Woolley Woods on 3rd February and 25 at Pot Hills Marsh on 5th December. Maxima in VC 65 were 11 at Guisecliffe on 18th February and ten at Oxclose, Ripon on 20th January.

Single birds trapped at Spurn on 20th and 21st October were, on biometrics, assigned to the northern, nominate race *P.p. pyrrula* whilst two seen there on 4th November were considered to be of this race. Single birds at Flamborough on 19th, 20th and 23rd October with another on 18th November plus three on 27th October were also considered to be nominate birds.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Very scarce in VC 61 excepting the very west where one pair bred at Escrick. Other records were of a single at Flamborough on 21st April with three in the village there on the 24th. One at Kinsea on 25th October and two west at Sunk Island on 4th November.

A pair at Mulgrave Woods, Whitby, on 7th May with one at Ellerburn Bank on 8th March; three at Black Park, Cropton on 4th November whilst in the York area single birds were occasionally seen at the Archbishop's Palace with nine in Knavesmire Wood on 21st November, three remaining to 5th December.

In VC 63, bred at two locations in the Doncaster area; one near Sheffield; and one in the Barnsley area with possible breeding at two more locations near Barnsley and a further two on the Barnsley/Sheffield recording area boundaries. Would appear to be increasing in this VC though increased observer awareness is also partly responsible for an upsurge in records. Maxima reported were 14 in December at Rossington Hall; 12 at Woolley Woods on both 28th January and 14th December; 12 at Stainborough on 3rd March; 11 in Bretton Park on 26th September; ten Roche Abbey on 4th March with nine in Concord Park on 24th September and six at Sprotborough on 10th February. A Peregrine larder on Risworth Moor on 16th May contained the primary feathers of one – well away from known locations of Hawfinch in this VC.

Bred to the east of Leeds, in VC 64, probably doing so also at Bolton Abbey. 30 were at Studley Royal on 1st January with 40 present at Fountains/Studley on the 7th. One to four occasionally at Whinmoor, Conyngham Hall, High Batts N.R., Meanwood, Menston, Staveley, Grantley Hall and Gallowhill.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Scarce during the early months of the year with one to four occasionally at Spurn, Flamborough, Filey, Barmston, Whitby and Cherry Cobb.

During the latter months, quite frequent at Spurn with usually one to four birds involved but six on 11th November. Far larger numbers at other coastal locations with 59 at Grimston on 10th November; 21 at Aldbrough on 22nd November; 37 at Barmston on 5th November with 67 on the 11th, 170 on the 14th and 70 on the 29th then generally up to 20 there during December but a peak of 118 on the 16th. Frequent at Flamborough in October with 11 on 13th, 18 on 14th, 32 on 17th, 14 on 22nd and ten on the 27th. Smaller counts during November with a peak of 14 on the 7th. Filey had birds almost daily during the period 7th to 27th October with 12 on the 15th as the peak with only occasional records during November and December when 19 were recorded on 10th November and 13 off the

sea on 23rd December. Occasionally at Burniston with between 15 and 20 as maximum on 31st October.

Three flew west at Sunk Island on 20th October whilst inland, one flew northeast over Wintersett C.P. on 22nd November.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Very few during the early months with up to 18 at Spurn during the first three weeks of January then fewer, with 11 on 11th March the only other record there of double figures. 15 at Whitby on 4th January and 11 at Filey on 7th January being the only other flocks reported.

Slightly more frequent and numerous during the latter months but nowhere near as widespread or in the numbers of 20 years ago. 23 at Spurn on 4th November with 18 on 17th and 26 on the 18th whilst in December, up to 65 from the 6th to 29th; this flock frequenting Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on many occasions. At this latter location, 57 were present on 10th November with 38 at Grimston on 17th November. Birds were present at Barmston throughout November with 66 on the 29th as the peak whilst Flamborough, 42 on 10th November was an isolated peak in a poor year. Only two records of more than ten at Filey with 22 on 4th November and 15 on 1st December. 50+ at Whitby on 25th December was the only report of more than six in VC 62.

Away from the coast, ten over Hornsea Mere on 27th October with singles at Paull on 14th January and at Sunk Island on 3rd February. One at Puffin Bog from 19th February to 3rd March being the only bird well inland in VC 61. In VC 63, three at Barnsdale Bar on 16th/17th January, four at Wessenden Moor on 17th November, two west at Redmires on 1st November and two reported from Burbage Moor on 4th. Singles reported from Broomhill Ings on 4th October and 2nd November, Strines on 8th and Blacktoft on 18th November. Three at Fairburn Ings on 28th and 30th November the only record from VC 64.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Would appear to be no change in status, the only details received being of a total of 30 pairs on Hatfield Moors and 28 pairs on Thorne Moors.

Flocks during the early months were generally low, usually 20 to 70 but 500 present on Filey Golf Course on 1st January with up to 150 there frequently before decreasing to 40 on 21st April. 120 at Flamborough throughout January whilst in VC 63, 80 at Wadworth Wood on 14th January increasing to a peak of 250 on the 29th; 160 at Carlton Marsh on 1st January.

Smaller gatherings during the latter months with up to 100 near Muston (VC 61), 150 at Barmston on 30th December. 100+ at Castle Hills, Doncaster on 30th December and 130 at Edderthorpe in late December. Indications of an influx in October on the coast when 175 were at Flamborough on 21st and 100+ at Barmston on the 31st.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

A single bird at Flamborough on 18th October (PAL).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

A male at Filey Dams on 9th May was present until mid-morning of the 10th (JH:IR *et al*).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Single at Flamborough on 18th October (PAL) with another at Filey on 28th and 29th (DJS:PMS:CCT *et al*). The Flamborough bird is still under consideration by the BBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

At Tophill Low Res. the slow decline in breeding numbers appears to have ceased, though with 110 pairs estimated to have bred at Blacktoft the decline there continues. 39 pairs bred on Thorne Moors with 15 on Hatfield Moors. Continues to increase its useage of oil seed rape as a breeding habitat in Holderness.

The largest gatherings during the winter months were 155 at Blacktoft on 20th February with 140 there on 29th October; 100 at Filey Golf Course on 1st January, 100 at Pot Hills Marsh during the autumn. Light southerly passage at Spurn in October when up to 90 were also noted at Flamborough.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Apparently not as numerous at Flamborough as in former years, whilst a decline was also noted in the York area. Out-numbers Yellowhammer along parts of the northwestern fringes of VC 65. 20 singing males at Bielby which is considered to be a good population. No other comments on status received.

Largest gatherings recorded were 250 at Filey on 1st January remaining at that level until late February; 250 at Barmston on 19th November with 100 on 1st December and 500 on the 30th. In VC 63, 250 at Broomhill Ings on 11th February; 185 at Edderthorpe on 4th February with 220 there on 21st November whilst 150 were in the Howell Wood area during December. Gatherings of only very low double figures in VC 64.

The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate, forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver
Black-throated Diver
Slavonian Grebe
Black-necked Grebe
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Storm Petrel
Leach's Petrel
Little Egret
Purple Heron
White Stork
Bean Goose
Red-crested Pochard
Ferruginous Duck
Honey Buzzard
Red Kite
Montagu's Harrier
Goshawk
Rough-legged Buzzard
Golden Eagle
Hobby
Spotted Crake
Crane
Stone Curlew
Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Grey Phalarope
Pomarine Skua

Long-tailed Skua
Mediterranean Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Iceland Gull
Sabine's Gull
Roseate Tern
Black Guillemot
Bee-eater
Woodlark
Richard's Pipit
Tawny Pipit
Bluethroat
Cetti's Warbler
Savi's Warbler
Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Barred Warbler
Pallas's Warbler
Yellow-browed Warbler
Firecrest
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Golden Oriole
Woodchat Shrike
Chough
Raven
Serin
Scarlet Rosefinch
Cirl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting

British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1988) Number 9 pages xv and xvi.

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

Local Reports

The following local society and club reports for 1990 have been received and those readers requiring more information on the areas concerned should consult the relevant report.

Barnsley and District Bird Study Group
 Bradford Naturalists' Society
 Bradford Ornithological Group
 Castleford and District Naturalists' Society
 Doncaster and District Ornithological Society
 Filey Brigg Ornithological Group
 Halifax Scientific Society
 Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society
 Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club
 Leeds Birdwatchers' Club
 Pontefract and Castleford Bird Study Group
 Sheffield Bird Study Group
 Spurn Bird Observatory
 Tophill Low Wildlife Group
 Wharfedale Naturalists' Society
 York Ornithological Club

Reports and/or lists were also received from individuals or groups for their particular area being as follows: Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve, Stone Creek/Sunk Island, Flamborough Ornithological Group, Malham Tarn, Mickletown Ings, Pickering Ornithological Group, Pugney's C.P., Pulfin Bog, South Selby District, Staveley Nature Reserve, Thorne and Hatfield Moors Ornithological Survey 1990/1991, Wintersett/Angler's and a breeding bird survey of Grimwith Res. for 1989.

The following is a list of observers who contributed to the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and the very many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated.

N. W. Addey; D. P. Adkin; G. E. Alderson; D. Anderson; A. M. Allport; R. H. Appleby; E. Appleton; T. Arnet; M. Askew; B. K. Askwith; B. Aspin; G. Atkinson; Miss J. E. Atkinson; L. Aukland; K. Baldrige; A. Ball; D. J. Bamforth; T. Barker; A. S. Barker; R. Barnes; M. Barnett; S. Barwick; Y. Barwick; G. M. Batten; J. M. Bayldon; D. Beaumont; D. Bedford; S. Bedlow; C. Bell; N. A. Bell; G. R. Bennett; A. Benton; I. Beverage; C. Bielby; M. Billings; S. Bird; R. P. Blagdon; M. E. Blunt; A. J. Booth; H. Booth; A. Botterill; I. Boustead; D. J. Bowes; C. Braham; M. Brewer; S. Brocklehurst; H. O. Bunce; A. S. Butler; P. Butterworth; D. Bywater; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; G. M. Carr; M. J. Carroll; P. Chambers; T. D. Charlton; E. J. Chicken; W. A. Clarke; K. Clarkson; P. Clayton; E. W. Clubley; S. Cochrane; B. Coddington; T. Collings; D. R. Cooper; J. W. Cooper; M. Cooper; T. I. Corbett; D. W. Cottee; A. Credland; S. Craven; R. Crofton; I. Crowther; J. Cudworth; M. Cunningham; P. Cunningham; W. F. Curtis; D. B. Cutts; J. Dale; J. E. Dale; J. M. Dale; B. F. Damper; N. C. Dawtrey; L. J. Degnan; K. Denny; S. Denny; M. L. Denton; A. B. Devitt; A. Dixon; T. E. Dixon; G. E. Dobbs; T. Dolan; P. Dove; M. Duce; S. P. Dudley; S. E. Duffield; P. J. Dunn; K. A. Dutton; R. Eckersley; S. C. Elliott; T. M. England; I. English; R. Evison; D. Fawcett; C. Featherstone; G. Featherstone; T. Feltham; M. J. Fenner; E. A. Fisher; A. Ford; G. W. Follows; A. Forsyth; I. Forsyth; M. Francis; H. M. Frost; J. Gardner; M. G. H. Garnett; S. Gear; I. Glaves; B. Good; K. Good; C. Gorman; A. G. Gough; A. Grace; P. R. Greaves; S. Green; A. Grieve; P. R. Griffin; J. Griggall; D. Grist; M. J. Grunwell; Mrs. M. C. Gulliver; R. L. Gulliver; G. L. Haigh; P. W. Hales; M. C. Hall; M. Hammond; P. Hansbro; R. E. Harbird; J. Hardacre; C. G. Harris; C. Harrison; E. Harrison; Mrs. J. Harrison; P. Harrison; R. C. Hart; J. Harwood; M. Hayes; R. J. Hayhow; D. Herringshaw; J. Hewitt; S. Hey; B. R. Higham; W. Hill; C. Hind; D.

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